

Our Warfare

Intro:

Matt 26:30-46

Peter had the wrong attitude - he was overconfident and self reliant

Matt 16:21-23

Peter had the wrong argument - he literally used the philosophy of Satan to rebuke Christ

1 pet 5:6-10

Peter learned a valuable lesson that he clearly wants to pass on to us...

Problem:

1 Tim 1:18

Paul knew he was in a fight...He knew it was good and he wanted to make sure Timothy knew it too

2 Tim 4:1-8

More importantly He wanted him, and us to know how to win.

Our passage today provides a perfect illustration of exactly what this looks like...

Main Idea:

Walk with a meek attitude

Wage war with a mighty argument

Implication:

Peter learned the hard way that whether you like it or not you are in a battle

You are constantly at war with falsehood...not because was if fun but because Christ is real...

Truth is not just an idea, Truth is a person with whom we have a relationship. (Jn 14:6)

This means we are constantly encountering antithesis - we are constantly making war on falsehood - constantly called to contend for the faith once for all delivered to us...both to ourselves and to others...its this constancy that brings us back to Peter...

Application:

1 pet 3:15

Be ready...

Spirit warfare is not about destroying demons with a swagger and a spell

It is about destroying demonic arguments wherever they are encountered with a meek attitude and the mighty argument of Christ and His finished work in space time history

Articles for further study:

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B06XTKF62N>

<https://www.oneplace.com/ministries/grace-to-you/read/articles/restoring-the-virtue-of-meekness-11247.html>

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/our-ancient-foe/>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/spiritual-warfare.html>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/spiritual-battle.html>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/sword-of-the-Spirit.html>

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Text:

Walk with a meek attitude

2Corinthians 10:1 ¶ I, Paul, myself entreat you, **by the meekness and gentleness of Christ**—I who am humble when face to face with you, but bold toward you when I am away!—

2Corinthians 10:2 I beg of you that when I am present I may not have to show boldness with such confidence as I count on showing against some who suspect us of walking according to the flesh.

1 pet 2:21-23 (the meekness of Christ is no small thing - ironically this is a claim to very real power - Jesus calmly endured the wrongs done to Him - without returning reviling on them...what makes this meekness?)

matt 26:51-53 (He could have returned reviling on them - meekness requires power otherwise it is merely spinelessness)

matt 21:5 (riding on a donkey is not meek unless you could be on a warhorse - holding your tongue because you are ignorant is not meekness it is might be wisdom but it is not meekness)

matt 11:27-30 (speaking with no authority when you have none is not meekness -

1 kings 12:1-11 (Christ could have made their yoke heavy - it is significant that He didn't precisely because He could do otherwise gentleness requires strength otherwise it is mere weakness - you don't commend a conductor for self control in staying on the train tracks because he can't really leave them - but a man on a wild horse walking demurely is truly worthy of praise)

lk 12:49-53 (many of us have replaced the idea of meekness with niceness but meekness is not always nice...after all we are at war...)

Wage war with a mighty argument

2Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we are **not waging war according to the flesh**.

2Corinthians 10:4 For the weapons of **our warfare** are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

2Corinthians 10:5 **We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,**

2Corinthians 10:6 **being ready** to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

rom 1:18-32 (why warfare? Polemics? Why not just use the analogy of marketing like todays modern evangelicals have done? - because the world does not want this product - lost people don't have a data problem or a fact problem but a worldview problem...a Satanic problem)

eph 2:1-3 (No one is neutral - waring against worldview of Satan, evolution, naturalism, materialism, pantheism, paganism feminism, homosexuality, transgenderism, marxism are literally demonic - fighting CRT from coming into schools and churches, fighting homosexuality from passively being embraced in your mind etc.... is literally spiritual warfare...)

eph 6:10-20 (spiritual warfare is a war of ideas...God's Word vs Satans and the worlds - only the power of God's truth can smash the lies of the world the flesh and the devil)(prov 21:22 (presuppositional apologetics - destroying false presuppositions and replacing them with true ones...wherever they are encountered...)

acts 17:22-31 (presuppositional apologetics is outward towards others' arguments and lofty opinions...)

col 3:1-17 (presuppositional apologetics is also directed inward taking every one of our own thoughts captive...be transformed by the renewal of your mind (rom 12:1) consider yourself dead to sin and alive to God (rom 6))