



Loving Jesus, Loving People, Plowing a Counter-Culture

SERMON TEXT: 2 Corinthians 10:1-18

MAIN POINT: Faithful Christian ministry is a

EXPLORATION: Spiritual Warfare

[1] How do you feel about the way Scripture describes the realities of life as “Spiritual War?” What do you think the bible means in comparing the Christian walk to a Spiritual battle?

[2] What do you think happens to someone who fails to realize that this kind of battle is going on around them?

[3] In your opinion, how do you think our culture embraces the notion of “truth?” Where do the truths in Scripture rub against the cultural narratives of our society?

➤ **Read 2 Corinthians 10:1-6**

[1] What is the dynamic between the physical and spiritual that Paul presents to us in verse 3?

[2] What are the weapons that we have been equipped with, according to what Paul states in verse 4? (Use Ephesians 6:10-18 to help you.)

[3] Paul says that the weapons of a Christian have a “Divine” power and ability to destroy strongholds. What are some examples of these strongholds, and where have you seen something like this happen?

[4] In your opinion, what does it mean to “take every thought captive” (verse 5)? What do you think this has to do with destroying strongholds?

[5] Why is it important that the Christian train his or her mind, and what does it look like to do this, practically?

UNDERSTANDING: Gospel Leadership

➤ **Have a volunteer read 2 Corinthians 10:12-18**

Pastor Ryan spoke about the reality that all humans are created in the image of God (Gen 1:26-27) and are therefore called to be leaders, regardless of whether that means leading ourselves, our family, our neighborhoods, our workplaces, or ministries.

[1] In your opinion, what does healthy, biblical leadership look like?

[2] What kinds of things happen if we attempt to accomplish ministry in our flesh?

[3] In your opinion, what does it look like to effectively share the Gospel in our culture today?

[4] Why is it important that we understand the culture around us to effectively communicate the Gospel? (“Contextualization.”)

APPLICATION:

[1] What is one way that you can better equip yourself for the work of ministry this week?

[2] What strongholds in your life have you yet to demolish? What is your battle plan for getting rid of them?

[3] Who do you, right now, wish to share the Gospel with? Pray for them tonight, and take a step to both be an example of Jesus and share the truth of the Gospel with them this week.

PRAYER:

Lead your group in a time of prayer, thanking God that He always tells us the truth. Pray that you would be well-equipped with the weapons of love, grace, faith, and the Gospel to win souls over for Christ. Pray for boldness and encouragement in the Holy Spirit to be faithful to those who may hate you for speaking the truth to them, and ask that God already be at work in preparing their heart and mind to receive the truth that Jesus died for them.



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GOING DEEPER:

APPLICATION:

- What does the bible describe as our weapons for Spiritual Warfare?
• Why is it so important that we remember that our battle is not against people, but for them?
• What might happen to us if we live as though there is no battle going on?

REFLECTION:

"I am wired by nature to love the same toys that the world loves. I start to fit in. I start to love what others love. I start to call earth "home." Before you know it, I am calling luxuries "needs" and using my money just the way unbelievers do. I begin to forget the war. I don't think much about people perishing. Missions and unreached people drop out of my mind. I stop dreaming about the triumphs of grace. I sink into a secular mind-set that looks first to what man can do, not what God can do. It is a terrible sickness. And I thank God for those who have forced me again and again toward a wartime mind-set." - John Piper

FOR PARENTS:

- How can you teach your children the importance of realizing that we are in a Spiritual battle?
• How can you prevent them from misapplying this truth, or correcting them if they do?
• How can you show them that God is battling for them?

PLOWS Challenge: We believe that discipleship is life-long, ongoing and organic. Much of discipleship is based on developing the ongoing habits of a disciple of Christ. Here at Emergence, we aim to commit ourselves to the following disciplines in our walk toward Christ:

- P - Praying daily for Gospel opportunity
L - Listening to the Word of God
O - Openness toward others
W - Works of Love
S - Sharing your story

