

# The Minister: His Warfare and Weapons

## 2 Corinthians 10: 01–06

### 1 *Paul accused of living by the standards of this world*

- a. Being a coward
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. Being carnal,  
lacking godly power  
and boldness

### 2 *The minister wars and fights, but not in a worldly way*

- a. He is in a spiritual war
- b. His weapons are not physical  
but spiritual,  
of divine power
- c. His method of conquering evil  
is threefold
  - 1) He casts down arguments  
and imaginations
  - 2) He demolishes pretensions
  - 3) He captivates every thought

### 3 *The minister stands ready to deal with rebels - but only after genuine believers are clearly seen*

- 1 By the meekness and gentleness of Christ,  
I appeal to you  
- I, Paul,  
who am “timid”  
when face to face with you,  
but “bold” when away!
- 2 I beg you that when I come  
I may not have to be as bold as I expect to be  
toward some people  
who think that we live  
by the standards of this world.
- 3 For though we live in the world,  
we do not wage war  
as the world does.
- 4 The weapons we fight with  
are not the weapons of the world.  
On the contrary,  
they have divine power  
to demolish strongholds.
- 5 We demolish arguments  
and every pretension that sets itself up  
against the knowledge of God,  
and we take captive every thought  
to make it obedient to Christ.
- 6 And we will be ready to punish  
every act of disobedience,  
once your obedience is complete.

## The Minister: His Right to Be Accepted

### 2 Corinthians 10: 07-18

**1 *He is to be accepted  
because he belongs to Christ***

- a. Charge:  
Paul ranked less than other ministers
- b. Claim:  
All ministers are equal

**2 *He is to be accepted  
because he is set for edification  
not for destruction***

- a. Charge:  
Paul destroys people
- b. Claim:  
He edifies, not destroys people

**3 *He is to be accepted  
because of the authority God has given,  
not because of appearance***

- a. Charge:  
Paul - weak appearance,  
poor preacher  
- could not possibly have  
authority of God
- b. Claim
  - 1) If needed,  
he would exercise his authority
  - 2) Human commendations  
and judgments are unwise
  - 3) A minister is to exercise authority  
only in the area  
and within the limits  
God has given him

7 You are looking only on the surface of things.  
If anyone is confident  
that he belongs to Christ,  
he should consider again  
that we belong to Christ just as much as he.

8 For even if I boast somewhat freely  
about the authority the Lord gave us  
for building you up  
rather than pulling you down,  
I will not be ashamed of it.

9 I do not want to seem  
to be trying to frighten you  
with my letters.

10 For some say,  
“His letters are weighty and forceful,  
but in person he is unimpressive  
and his speaking amounts to nothing.”

11 Such people should realize  
that what we are in our letters  
when we are absent,  
we will be in our actions  
when we are present.

12 We do not dare to classify  
or compare ourselves  
with some who commend themselves.  
When they measure themselves by themselves  
and compare themselves with themselves,  
they are not wise.

13 We, however,  
will not boast beyond proper limits,  
but will confine our boasting  
to the field God has assigned to us,  
a field that reaches even to you.

<p><b>4 <i>He is to be accepted because he ministers and preaches the gospel</i></b></p> <p>a. He preaches the gospel to the church</p> <p>b. His area of concern</p> <p>1) Their faith and its growth</p> <p>2) Their sending the gospel to regions beyond themselves</p> <p><b>5 <i>He is to be accepted because he boasts in the Lord and not in men</i></b></p>	<p>14 We are not going too far in our boasting, as would be the case if we had not come to you, for we did get as far as you with the gospel of Christ.</p> <p>15 Neither do we go beyond our limits by boasting of work done by others. Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our area of activity among you will greatly expand,</p> <p>16 So that we can preach the gospel in the regions beyond you. For we do not want to boast about work already done in another man's territory.</p> <p>17 But, "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."</p> <p>18 For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.</p>
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