

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.

**4 *He is to be accepted
because he ministers
and preaches the gospel***

- a. He preaches the gospel to the church
- b. His area of concern
 - 1) Their faith and its growth

 - 2) Their sending the gospel to regions beyond themselves

**5 *He is to be accepted
because he boasts in the Lord
and not in men***

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.

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,

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.

17 But, "Let him who boasts
boast in the Lord."

18 For it is not the one who commends himself
who is approved,
but the one whom the Lord commends.