



PART 2

PAUL IN CORINTH: LEADERSHIP UNDER FIRE

Chapter Nine

THE LEADER'S WARFARE

LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLE #20 **A LEADER IS PASSIONATE**

Sometime shortly after they received the letter, Paul himself would come for his third visit. He was already preparing for the journey ([2 Corinthians 12:14](#)).

[2 Corinthians 12:14 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁴“Here for this third time I am ready to come to you, and I will not be a burden to you; for I do not seek what is yours, but you; for children are not responsible to save up for *their* parents, but parents for *their* children.”

So they would have some time after reading the epistle to get ready for the apostle's coming. They needed to use that time to deal with the issues Paul raised in the epistle. Those who still might be on the fence needed to repent.

In effect, the closing four chapters of [2 Corinthians](#) echo and expand on what Paul wrote in [1 Corinthians 4:21](#):

[1 Corinthians 4:21 \(NASB\)](#)

²¹“What do you desire? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love and a spirit of gentleness?”

It was up to the Corinthians. And if things were already *that* urgent when Paul wrote his first epistle, they were more so now.



Paul had three groups of people in mind as he penned this portion of his letter. There were the faithful Corinthians, who had now reaffirmed their commitment to Paul. There were some fence-sitters, who apparently retained sympathies with the false apostles and wanted to remain undecided. And then there were the accusers themselves. Paul knew they still posed a great threat.

Paul's response to all three groups reveals the depth and range of his passion. He addressed the faithful ones with gentle, heartfelt compassion. He cautioned the fence-sitters sternly and with boldness. And he militantly put his accusers on notice that they were not safe. All three of these are seen clearly in those [verses](#) of [2 Corinthians 10:1-6](#).

2 Corinthians 10:1-6 (NASB)

¹“Now I, Paul, myself urge you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am meek when face to face with you, but bold toward you when absent!

²I ask that when I am present I *need* not be bold with the confidence with which I propose to be courageous against some, who regard us as if we walked according to the flesh.

³For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh,

⁴for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.

⁵*We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

⁶and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.”

HIS COMPASSION

Paul was about to employ some powerful and militant language in [verses 3–6](#).

2 Corinthians 10:3-6 (NASB)

³“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh,

⁴for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.

⁵*We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

⁶and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.”

So in order to put that in its proper context, he began with an expression of tender, heartfelt compassion:

2 Corinthians 10:1 (NASB)

¹“**Now I, Paul, myself urge you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am meek when face to face with you, but bold toward you when absent!**”

CH-110 LEADERSHIP 1

Dr. Eddie Idefonso

Lecture # 52



Paul knew, of course, that being **misrepresented, slandered, reviled, persecuted,** and **wrongfully accused** is an inevitable part of being a Christian. We must expect to suffer unjustly. Our lives confront the culture we live in. We live as aliens in the world, and it should not surprise us when the world is hostile toward us (**1 John 3:13**).

1 John 3:13 (NASB)

¹³“**Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you.**”

We were called for that purpose. In this world we will have tribulation (**John 16:33**). It goes with the territory.

John 16:33 (NASB)

³³“**These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.**”