



## PART 2

# PAUL IN CORINTH:

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## LEADERSHIP

## UNDER FIRE

### Chapter Nine

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## THE LEADER'S WARFARE

### **LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLE #21**

### **A LEADER IS COURAGEOUS**

## HIS MILITANCY

These are the various thought systems people have raised up against the knowledge of God. [Romans 1](#) describes the course humanity has followed into sin. Although the truth of God's existence and infinite power are clearly visible in creation ([Romans 1:20](#)),

**Romans 1:20 (NASB)**

<sup>20</sup>“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”

...sinful humanity has turned against God, suppressed the knowledge of Him, embraced foolish and futile thoughts instead, and “exchanged the truth of God for the lie” ([vv. 21–25](#)).

**Romans 1:21-25 (NASB)**

<sup>21</sup>“For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

<sup>22</sup> Professing to be wise, they became fools,

<sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so



that their bodies would be dishonored among them.

<sup>25</sup> For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.”

Every worldly ideology that opposes God, opposes Christ, and opposes the Bible is rooted in that same rebellion and spawned out of hell. That is what we wage war against. **False religions. Humanistic philosophies. Secular rationalism.** Those are the high things that exalt themselves against the knowledge of God (**2 Corinthians 10:5**). And they have to be brought down.

**2 Corinthians 10:5 (NASB)**

<sup>5</sup> “**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.”

**2 Corinthians 10:5 (NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup> “**Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God,** bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”

That brings up a crucial question: **What, precisely, are our weapons?**

If the fortresses are constructed of “**arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God**” (**v. 5**; thoughts, concepts, opinions, ideologies, philosophies), it seems obvious that the only power that will destroy such things is the **power of truth.**

Indeed, when the apostle Paul listed the armor of spiritual warfare in **Ephesians 6:13–17**, he named only one offensive weapon in the panoply: “**the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God**” (**v. 17**).

**Ephesians 6:13-17 (NASB)**

<sup>13</sup> “Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

<sup>14</sup> Stand firm therefore, **HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH,** and **HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,**

<sup>15</sup> and having shod **YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;**

<sup>16</sup> in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*.

<sup>17</sup> And take **THE HELMET OF SALVATION,** **and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**”

The power of God for salvation is the power of the gospel alone (**Romans 1:16**; cf. **1 Corinthians 1:21**).

**Romans 1:16 (NASB)**

<sup>16</sup> “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”



**1 Corinthians 1:21 (NASB)**

<sup>21</sup>“For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.”

In other words, “the weapons of our warfare” **are the instruments of truth**. The Word of God. The gospel. Sound doctrine. The truth of Scripture.

The simple fact is that you can’t fight spiritual warfare with magic phrases and secret words. You don’t overpower demons merely by shouting at them. I don’t have anything to say to a demon anyway. I’m not interested in talking to them. Let the Lord do that (cf. [Jude 9](#)).

**Jude 1:9 (NASB)**

<sup>9</sup>“But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”

Why would I even want to communicate with evil spirits? But I have a lot to say to people who have barricaded themselves in fortresses of demonic lies. I want to do everything I can to tear down those palaces of lies. And the only thing that equips me to do that well is the Word of God.

Spiritual warfare is all about demolishing evil lies with the truth. Use the authority of God’s Word and the power of the gospel to give people the truth. That is what will pull down the fortresses of falsehood. That is the real nature of spiritual warfare. That is precisely what Paul described here in [2 Corinthians 10](#).

What does all this have to do with leadership?

**One of the fundamental qualifications for spiritual leadership is a knowledge of the truth, an ability to recognize lies, and skill in using the truth to refute the lies. A leader is discerning.**

**LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLE #22**

**A LEADER IS DISCERNING**

One of the key requirements Paul listed for elders in the church was that they have to be skilled enough with the Word of God to “be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict” ([Titus 1:9](#)).

**Titus 1:9 (NASB)**

<sup>9</sup>“Holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will **be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.**”

One who is not able to engage in the spiritual warfare on this level is simply not equipped to lead well.

## CH-110 LEADERSHIP 1

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Lecture # 59



**Furthermore, you cannot be a good leader and *avoid* the warfare.** As Paul's life demonstrated, the more effective you are as a leader, the more the enemy will bring the battle to you. That is the nature of leadership. We therefore cannot lead well or fight the battle well unless we learn the Scriptures and acquire skill in using God's truth to answer lies.

Lies yield only to the truth. Rebellion ends when truth prevails. If you're a leader who is also a Christian, you may not realize it, but you are engaged in spiritual warfare. You need to be armed. You need to know the Word of God. And you need to develop skill in using it against the lies of the evil one.