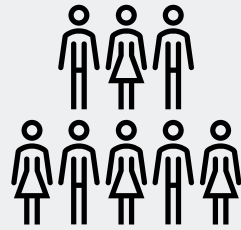




The Battle for the Mind

The War Within



Society:

Wokeness

CRT

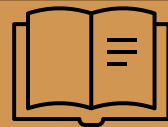
Identity

Homosexuality

Home:

Education

MINDSET



Foundations:

Biblical Worldview – Depravity, Truth, One Solution

The Christian mind has succumbed to the secular drift with a degree of weakness and nervelessness unmatched in Christian history. It is difficult to do justice in words to describe the complete loss of intellectual morale in the twentieth century church. One cannot characterize it without having to recourse to language which will sound hysterical and melodramatic. There is no longer a Christian mind. There is still, of course, a Christian ethic, a Christian practice, and a Christian spirituality... But as a thinking being, the modern Christian has succumbed to secularism.

Religion today is not transforming people; rather it is being transformed by the people. It is not raising the moral level of society; it is descending to society's own level, and congratulating itself that it has scored a victory because society is smilingly accepting its surrender. – AW Tozer

Over the last century the church in America has suffered serious generational drift and decay. In every subsequent generation over the last century, the faith has become more fragmented, watered-down, superficial, and irrelevant. We have drifted from a vibrant faith rooted in the historic confessions, coherent theological convictions, and intelligent cultural engagement to a privatized faith that is indifferent to the past, theologically ignorant, and culturally irrelevant. Our young people ... do not know why they should obey scripture, the essentials of theology, or the experience of spiritual discipline and community. Coming generations of Christians are going to be monumentally ignorant and unprepared for culture-wide pressures. - M. Spencer

It doesn't matter what you say you believe, *how you spend your time, energy, and resources* truly demonstrates what you care about most...

We do understand this very well...

- *Things you believe to be important get prioritized.*
- *Future goals decide your priorities.*
- *What matters most to you?*

Next, what moves you more:

Gain or loss....

- *Think – finding \$20 or losing \$20...*
- *Think – better looking or avoid unhealthiness...*
- *Think – money or freedom?*

We know that we are **ALIEN** people in
a **HOSTILE** world....

Hostile drives what type of thought process?



2 Cor 10:3-6

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵ We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, ⁶ being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

Context of this passage: **THREAT**

11:13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.

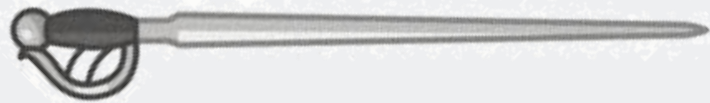
The attacks were: **SMART and REFINED**

They accused Paul of being:

INCONSISTENT & WORLDLY

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

In the flesh: **Not according to the flesh**



Not of the flesh:



Divine Power



Demolishing or destroying strongholds...

⁵ We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, ⁶ being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

-Destroy Arguments and Lofty Opinions:

It starts with the thought life, nothing is neutral.

Does this idea glorify or contend with God?

-Taking Thoughts Captive:

Ideas are forced into submission to the conquering champion – Truth.

Stay vigilant and pursue Christ's thoughts by the Spirit's help.

-Punishing Resistance:

Be ready with seriousness to fight for Truth, especially in the church.

Takeaways:

1. Your mind is the most important indicator of the state of your soul.

Are you at war? Do you act like you are in a hostile world?
We are in enemy territory and sin is very deceptive!

2. Every aspect of the battle is over the Lordship of Christ.

Any thoughts, opinions, or desires must submit to the Lordship.
We must remain diligent to use divinely powered weapons
(God's Word, prayer, worship) in the battle.

3. Be ready to reject those who minimize tension with the world.

We must see sin and deception for its true impact. All "common ground" pulls Christian thought down, not sinful thought up.

Takeaways: *cont'd*

4. Use Paul's Battle Methods

Attack any thought against God's Word. Fill that thought void with Truth. Be sensitive towards drift.

5. Apply God's Word to all of life

Diligently in God's Word, trying to consistently apply Truth to every part of your life.

6. Proclaim the Life-Giving Truth

We want all to know the Truth. We want to love and share the Word with all. We know the sadness of living in deception and know the final conclusion for all who don't believe.