

Read whole context

I. Defining Strongholds (v3)

1. Strongholds ≠ Idols ≠ Sin

Why? → (1) Idol = object of our affection
(2) Sin = resulting behavior

→ verse 5

(3) Stronghold = Protracted, pervasive, incorrect thinking pattern which informs our affections

(4) Built on deception & error from:

EX. ← + People (parents) + Environment (ideas)
+ Trauma

→ Eph. 6:12

(5) Strongholds are held together by Satan

+ he rebuilds them + he counters efforts

II. 2. Types of Strongholds

(1) Institutional (Outside of us)

+ Worldviews (Phil, Values, etc.)

+ Garrisons (Govt, Fam, church, etc.)

Besetting
what is the
stronghold

(2) Personal (Within us)

+ Specific Sins + Comprehensive (our focus)

II. Deferring Strongholds

1. Submitting to subversive ^{superiors} ~~authorities~~

(1) Accepting & meditating on error

2. Suppressing Secret Sins

→ Eph. 4:27

3. Settling for subpar substitutes

(1) whatever is best today
Instant gratification

III. Defeating Strongholds (v4-7)

1. Destroy Arguments & lofty Opinions

(1) Armed w/ Truth (1 Cor. 1:19)

(2) Examples:

+ Activity ≠ Identity (desires)
+ Happy ≠ Joy (suffering)

(3) Lofty = reverse of logic

+ e.g. Tolerance + Abortion
+ " " Love

2. Take Every Thought + Captive (v5b)

(1) To examine them closely

(2) Examples:

+ What brings peace
+ What is valuable
+ Parenting, vocation, church

Transformed by
renewing of mind

3. Don't Go At It Alone (v6)

(1) obedience fulfilled = confronting strongholds.

(2) Be willing to preserve this culture at all costs

4. Look at what is before you (v7)

(1) Return to the Gospel / Jesus