

Christian Warfare in the Mind – Part 3

Introduction and Review

- Reasoning with opponents involves praying for their spiritual enlightenment (v. 7a)
- Reasoning with opponents involves confidence in ministry from the Lord (v. 7b-8)
- Responding to opponents involves defending your God-given personality (v. 9-11)
- Responding to opponents involves destroying competitive thinking & comparisons (v. 12)

I. Knowing Your Area of Influence (v. 13-15a)

A. Assigned by God (v. 13)

*God has **assigned** every Christian a ministry (a way to serve God & his people). Every individual Christian & ministry has limitations which require discernment – “area of influence” [what & where].*

B. Accomplished by grace (v. 14-15a)

*The Holy Spirit guides the humble believer to protect against **overextending** oneself in ministry (v. 14). The humble believer does not labor for self-glory or pride (v. 15a) – it’s all by grace!*

Our area of influence in ministry is assigned by God & accomplished by grace.

II. Expanding Your Area of Influence (v. 15b-18)

A. Faith and obedience (v. 15b-16)

*Every true believer **hopes** their area of influence in ministry will expand & help other people. Expanding your area of influence involves: faith, unity, and obedience to the gospel commission (v. 15b-16).*

B. Humility (v. 17-18)

Because God is the source of every godly achievement, He must be praised for any progress in ministry (v. 17; 1Co. 10:31). Self-glory & self-commendation is deceptive & destructive (v. 18a). Pleasing God is always edifying to the true believer (v. 18b).

God expands our area of influence by faith, obedience & humility!