

Christian Warfare in the Mind – Part 4

Introduction and Review

- Every believer should know their area of influence assigned by God (v. 13)
- Every believer must guard against overextending themselves in ministry [area of influence] by pride (v. 14-15a)
- Expanding your area of influence involves faith, unity, and obedience to the gospel commission (v. 15b-16)
- Expanding your area of influence also involves humility (v. 17-18)

I. Exposing Deception (v. 1-6)

A. True devotion to Christ (v. 1-2, 3b)

True love & devotion endures all things (v. 1; 1Co. 13:7) – criticism, rejection, slander, etc. True love & devotion is divinely jealous, unconditionally committed, and resolved to purity (v. 2, 3b).

B. False devotion to Christ (v. 3a, 4-6)

False teaching leads to false devotion to Christ (v. 3) – deceived, cunning, led astray. False teaching presents: a false Jesus, a false spirit, and a false gospel (v. 4). False teaching [teacher] is arrogant, boastful & judgmental (v. 5-6).

The quality of devotion to Christ exposes deception.

II. Reasoning with Those Deceived (v. 7-15)

A. True humble sacrifices (v. 7-12)

Making financial sacrifices is evidence of humility in ministry (v. 7-9).

Making financial sacrifices is evidence of love for God's people (v. 10-12) – determination, love & faithfulness.

B. False arrogant sacrifices (v. 13-15)

False servants in ministry are deceitful & dishonest (v. 13a; Phil. 1:15-17;

1Tim. 6:10). False servants in ministry disguise themselves (v. 13b-15; Mt.

7:15-16). Their ministry is demonic & destructive (Jn. 10:10; Jas. 3:14-16) – steal, kill & destroy.

The quality of sacrifices for Christ exposes deception!