

Christian Warfare in the Body

Introduction and Review

- We have addressed Christian warfare in the mind for past 4 weeks (chap. 10-11)
- Spiritual weapons for spiritual warfare – word, prayer & wisdom
- We must graciously reason with opponents & pray for spiritual enlightenment
- We must know our area of influence & expose deception with truth

I. Reasoning with Foolish Christians (v. 11-22)

A. Acceptance (v. 16-18)

Boasting or bragging about Christian accomplishments is foolishness (v. 16-17). Sometimes boasting is necessary with immature & foolish Christians for acceptance (v. 18) – “accept me” [v. 16].

B. Endurance/Tolerance (v. 19-22)

Deceived Christians tolerate significant foolishness from deceivers (v. 19-20) – lordship, exploitation financially, craftiness, arrogance & physical abuse. Defending your God-given qualification may be necessary with immature & foolish Christians (v. 21-22).

Reasoning for acceptance & endurance may be necessary with foolish Christians.

II. Reasoning about Physical Pain (v. 23-33)

A. External pain (v. 23-27)

Servants of Christ suffer for Christ (v. 23a; Rom. 8:17). External sufferings of Christ’s servant (v. 23b-27): imprisonment, violence, dangerous conditions, dangerous people, dangerous places; deprivation of sleep, food & comfort [2Tim. 3:12; 1Co. 15:10].

B. Internal pain (v. 28-33)

Every Christian soldier must also deal with internal pressure & pain (v. 28-30). God is still faithful in every painful experience (v. 32-33; 2Co. 1:8-10).

Reasoning about godly suffering may be necessary with foolish Christians!