The Weapons of Our Warfare

2 Cor. 10:1-6

Introduction:

A. We are at war - as individual Christians and as the church.
   1. Our warfare is not carnal, it is a spiritual war. (v. 3; cf. Eph. 6:11,12).
   2. Our objective is to bring every thought into captivity for Christ. (v. 5)
      a. To war after the flesh is to compete for these minds by fleshly means.
      b. To war after the flesh to seek to win converts by fleshly enticement.
      c. To war after the flesh is to try to compete with the world on its level.
      d. To war after the flesh is to try to confront human religion on its level.

B. We are at war - but all is not fair in this war.
   1. We are not allowed the same tactics that the enemy uses.
   2. We are given weapons far more powerful than the world uses.
   3. We are reminded of two important facts about the weapons of our warfare.

Discussion:

I. The Weapons Of Our Warfare Are Mighty In God. (v. 4)
   A. Carnal weapons are too weak for the enemy we face. (vs. 4-6; cf. Eph. 6:10-13)
   B. Christians armed with “whole armor of God” are a powerful force. (Eph. 6:14-20)
   C. Spiritual weapons seem weak to others - but Christians know better. (1 Cor. 1:18-25)
      1. The gospel is the power of God to salvation. (Rom. 1:16).
      2. The truth of the gospel is the only thing that can bring men into obedience to Christ.

II. The Weapons Of Our Warfare Are Not Carnal. (vs. 3,4)
   A. Paul had rather leave carnal weapons to those who war after the flesh.
   B. Paul discusses carnal weapons used by some in 2 Cor. 10-12.
      1. Appealing to Fleshly Talent and Strength. (10:7-10)
         a. Apollos was eloquent, but his power was in Scripture. (Acts 18:24,28; cf 1 Cor. 1:5)
         b. Paul was neither eloquent or strong in appearance. (10:10)
         c. There are brethren who are outstanding a variety secular fields.
            (1) As faithful Christians they are assets to the Cause.
            (2) But to use their fleshly status as a weapon in our warfare is to war after the flesh and
                defeats God's purpose (cf. 1 Cor. 1:27-31; 2 Cor. 10:17)
      d. Resorting to Fleshly Competition (10:12-18)
         e. Paul was not about to get into a P.R. contest with false teachers.
            (1) It was not wise.
            (2) It would accomplish nothing for the Lord. (v. 18)
         f. Brethren need to learn that we cannot compete with other religions on purely fleshly
            grounds.
            (1) A false teacher and his people may be more, less or just as friendly as we are.
            (2) A false teacher and his church may minister to the physical needs of others as well as,
               less than or even better than we are able to.
            (3) A local denomination and its ministers may be as educated, less educated, or more
               educated and/or polished than we are.
         g. Boasting of Fleshly Genealogy. (11:16-33)
         h. Paul match the false teachers in this area - but it meant nothing.
            i. "Who's Who List" on membership roles really mean nothing - use such to draw people to the
               church is to war after the flesh.
      j. Boasting of Fleshly Wisdom. (12:1-10)
k. Paul had rather boast of revelations.
   l. Paul had rather boast of being made weak physically for Christ's sake.

Conclusion:

A. Let us not resort to warring after the fleshly regardless to the temptation.
   B. Let us understand that the gospel will save without the aid of fleshly weapons.