
WHICH WAY IS THE WAR?

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INTRODUCTION: THE MAN AS A WARRIOR

1. Before considering where man is to fight, let us consider whether we are even justified in viewing man as a warrior. Biblically, is man even supposed to fight?
 - a. The Bible is filled with images of God's men as warriors engaged in battles – some physical, but all against spiritual evil.
 - i. Abram
 - ii. Moses
 - iii. Joshua
 - iv. Gideon
 - v. Paul (2 Cor. 4:10; Eph. 6:11-17)
 - b. The fact there is a spiritual war raging around us is also a firm Biblical idea (2 Kings 6:13-17; Dan. 10:11-20; Eph. 6:11-17)
 - c. God enlisted brave men into His service to battle the forces of evil. Men are made by God to be warriors against evil.
2. It is important for us to realize and accept this, because only when we see ourselves as warriors – instruments of God with His approval in spiritual battle – will we ever suit up and be ready to fight.
 - a. The reality of the spiritual war around us demands we either fight with God, fight evil alone (what will be the obvious result?) or acquiesce.
3. Yet, an understanding that men are warriors does not the warrior make.
 - a. We must choose to fight in the spiritual battle around us. This means we must enlist in the "Lord's army."
4. Now, understanding the Biblical truth of man as a warrior, we may ask, "Which was is the war?"

DISCUSSION:

- I. THE WAR IS IN THE HEART OF EVERY MAN
 - A. It is first the inward battle that must be won (Gen. 4:6-8)
 1. God was calling Cain to battle – but Cain would not go!
 - B. The heart is the first battlefield; the soul of man and those he protects is the prize
 - C. Why start with the heart?
 1. In the conquering of the heart is the solidifying of allegiance to God
 2. There is the overcoming of the paralysis of fear
 3. Pro. 4:23 – The heart is who we are. We must win the heart so that goodness is the norm and sinful thoughts are the anomaly, not the other way around.
 - i. If the heart is not first captured, we will always have a traitor in our midst!
 - D. How do we win the heart?
 1. We must set ourselves to do this (2 Chron. 11:16)
 2. We must remove the evil (Ezek. 11:19)

3. We must set ourselves and act in a way that reflects that new heart (2 Chron. 11:16; Ps. 57:7)
- E. Only after we have won this victory and successfully occupied this territory can we advance to the next battlefields...

II. THE WAR IS IN THE FAMILY

A. Enemy forces want to take control of your family

1. Sometimes it is your own selfish nature (see previous point), failure to be willing to fight
2. Sometimes it is an unsubmitive wife (Gen. 3:17; Eph. 5:22-24)
 - i. Adam had a battle to fight with Eve and chose not to – what was the result?
 - ii. Ahab had a battle to fight with Jezebel and chose not to – what was the result?
3. Sometimes it is unruly children
 - i. Eli lost the war for his children (1 Sam. 2:12-36)
 - ii. David lost at least some battles for his children (2 Sam. 13, 14-18)
4. Men must fight
 - i. To lead the family
 - ii. To love – and let that love be seen and experienced
 - iii. To be present – not always absent making money or engaged in selfish pursuits

B. How does a man win this war?

1. He wins the war over the heart
2. He wins the war over an unsubmitive wife by being the husband she will respect
 - i. He loves
 - ii. He cherishes
 - iii. He puts her first in his life
 - iv. His decisions are made with the best interest of his family in mind.
3. He wins the war over his children by loving, praising, disciplining and training them (Eph. 6:4)

C. Why does he engage in this rather unpleasant fight? Because while the war is in the family, it is fought FOR the family.

1. Eternal souls are following us we lead them across “enemy territory.” Our goal must be to protect them and keep them secure.
2. If you do not fight this war, the result will likely be disastrous.

III. THE WAR IS IN THE CHURCH

- ### A. While it is true that we struggle with fellowship with some issues of difference and understanding, there are times when the teachings of men

cross the line of clear biblical teachings. What are needed then are sound men of faith who will “fill the gap” and stand for truth.

1. Paul sets a powerful example to us here
 - i. Acts 15
 - ii. Able to think through the consequences of the teachings
 - iii. Unwilling to back down when he was confident of the will of God.
 - iv. Gal. 2:11-14
 2. Yet, not quick to call for war (Rom. 14)
- B. How do we win the wars that may arise in the church?
1. Must appeal to the same source as Paul – God’s word (Acts 20:32)
 2. Some things to consider
 - i. What is my motive here? (3 Jn. 9)
 - ii. Is this issue really a field of battle?
 - iii. Do I really love my brethren? Even those I oppose? (1 John 4:20-21)

IV. THE WAR IS IN THE WORLD

- A. This is the open battlefield – where Satan is calling the shot and his forces roam freely.
1. Make no mistakes about it – this is Satan’s turf (Jn. 12:31; 14:30; Eph. 2:2)
 - i. Not because he is more powerful and has taken it from God, but because the world has willingly given its allegiance to him
 - ii. He will use anyone and anything against us over which he has influence
 2. From this battlefield proceeds all of his other influences
 - i. On our heart
 - ii. On our families
 - iii. Even on the Lord’s body
 3. It is a corrupting influence – a cancer that threatens to destroy all. When men war against all other issues, he is always ultimately fighting this.
 4. Satan’s primary weapons against us are:
 - i. Lust of the flesh – things related to physical desires
 - ii. Lust of the eyes – thing relating to what we see and then want
 - iii. Pride of life – things relating to our life and our control over it
- B. What is the solution for the warrior who steps onto this battlefield?
1. He must have an unwavering commitment to His God (1 Jn. 2:15)
 2. He must be aware of the tactics of the enemy (2 Cor. 2:11)

3. He must be aware he fights with smaller forces, yet at the same time with the most powerful of Allies!
 - i. 1 Sam. 17:47
 - ii. 2 Chron. 32:8
 - iii. 2 Tim. 4:11-17 – While almost all others forsook Paul, he drew strength from the fact God was there – that was enough!
 - iv. Josh. 1:5-9

CONCLUSION:

1. Knowing these things, the Christian man can put on his armor and walk with purpose toward the various fields of war.
 - a. Taking first his heart
 - b. Taking next his family
 - c. Then taking his church
 - d. Finally, taking the battle to the enemy himself
2. Is all of this to say the battles are easy?
 - a. Certainly not! But, they are manageable if we are “strong and courageous!”
 - b. Other men stand at our side
 - c. But, most importantly, God is there
3. One final point must be noted: If you pick up your armor to fight the above wars, you must walk on the battlefield with the unshaken intent to win and take no prisoners.
 - a. Israel failed in doing this when taking Canaan (Jud. 1)
 - b. Saul failed in doing this (1 Sam. 15)
4. Take courage and fight the good fight!

Questions:

1. How have you felt at times the call of the warrior within?
2. What are some improper ways man's wiring to battle shows itself when misdirected or left undirected?
3. How would you define the heart as described in our study?
4. Can man ever fully capture the heart and master it? What is the best we can do?
5. What are some practical suggestions you can give for winning the heart of man?
6. What are some specific points you or other men have struggled with (or even lost) within the home? What will be the results if you don't fight and win those battles?
7. What does a man do if his spouse or children won't "surrender" to his leadership?
8. What are some other practical suggestions you can give for winning the family?
9. Should a Christian man like conflicts in the church? What does it tell him about his heart if he does like them?
10. What are some other practical suggestions you can give for winning the war for the church?

11. How do the weapons of Satan assault the man of God today?

12. What are some other practical suggestions you can give for winning the war against the world

