**Captive to the Obedience of Christ**

*2 Corinthians 10:1-5*

**Introduction**

1. Paul waged war for Christ throughout his appointed ministry.
   1. He fought false doctrine, and converted many to Christ, establishing several churches including Corinth.
   2. **In his ministry, he met opposition which denied his apostleship, and deceived brethren, turning them against Paul.**
   3. **He continuously defended his apostleship, showing it to be valid, and as potent as the other apostles.**
2. 2 Corinthians 10 begins the last section of this letter which Paul dedicated to defending his apostleship, and contending for the faith which was threatened by false teachers.
3. **(v. 1-3)** – He makes a humble and gentle plea for the Corinthians to turn from the false teachers to Christ.
   1. **(v. 1)** – These false teachers make false claims that Paul is weak **(v. 10-11** – *Paul is simply partaking in Christ’s meek nature, but if need be, will come with boldness*.)
   2. **(v. 2-3)** – The false teachers claimed, and thought to themselves, that Paul ***“walked according to the flesh.”*** – He did not.
4. **In reality, the false teachers were walking and waring according to the flesh:**
   1. **(10:12)** – compared themselves with themselves (*not to a divine standard* **– cf. 13:5**).
   2. **(11:3-4, 13-15)** – used deception instead of simplicity in truth (*did not have the truth*).
   3. **(11:19-20)** – used their usurped power to take advantage of the Corinthians.
      1. ***“According to Plummer, the Corinthians ‘tolerate what is far worse than folly’; they ‘tolerate tyranny, extortion, craftiness, arrogance, violence and insult’ (315).”*** [Melvin Curry, Edited by Mike Willis. Truth Commentaries - 2 Corinthians (Kindle Locations 8095-8096). Guardian of Truth Foundation.]
      2. *Perhaps the Corinthians yielded to the false apostles in fear.*
   4. **Paul, and the other apostles, do not wage war with such carnal devices 🡪**
5. **(10:3-5)** – although they are in the flesh (*man – physical body*) they do not use fleshly tactics in the spiritual warfare.
   1. **(v. 4a)** – not carnal, but mighty in God (**cf. 1 Corinthians 3:18-20** – *appeal to God’s wisdom and power, not man’s wisdom*).
   2. **(v. 4b-5a)** – the truth always prevails. *Any philosophy, argument, doctrine, idea, etc. that attempts to trump God’s word will fail*.
      1. **Note: God’s word is sufficient. We do not need to conform to carnal tactics to contend for the truth.**
      2. We do not need to do so to win people over for Christ.
   3. **(v. 5b)** – when such spiritual weapons are used, truth stands, **and the honest heart is taken captive to Christ.** – What does this mean?
      1. Emphasis on the **HONEST HEART** – some men are unreasonable **(cf. 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2)**.
      2. The Corinthians were being deceived, but truth would conquer the deception of the false apostles.
      3. **When this occurred, every thought (*concerning every facet of life*) would be taken captive to Christ, and rendered subservient to Him. 🡪**
6. **One who is truly subservient to Christ has their every thought taken captive to obey Him.**
   1. All thoughts are governed by Christ’s rule **(cf. Colossians 3:17).**
   2. Christ is controlling every facet of our lives (**cf. Galatians 2:20)**.
7. Captive to the Obedience of Christ
8. When considering entertainment.
   1. **When choosing the content of our entertainment, are our thoughts captive to the obedience of Christ?**
   2. What will we watch, read, or listen to? (Books, magazines, TV shows, movies, etc.)
   3. **Galatians 5:16-26** – The contrast between lusts of the flesh, and fruit of the Spirit.
      1. There is an internal warfare in every Christian – the pull between flesh and spirit.
      2. Are we consuming acts of the lusts of the flesh in our entertainment?
      3. If we are, then we are causing ourselves to lose the battle.
   4. **Matthew 6:22-23** – what do we let into our minds? Light or darkness?
      1. Our vision cannot be split.
      2. ***“good”*** – single (KJV)
      3. ***“Do not be deceived: ‘Evil company corrupts good habits’” (1 Corinthians 15:33).*** (Also true of the company of entertainment.)
         1. Some might say, “It just doesn’t affect me.”
         2. If you say such then it already has. (Seared conscience ***– cf. Ephesians 4:19 – “past feeling”***)
   5. **Ephesians 5:8-12** – we should have nothing to do with works of darkness. We should walk in light, and expose darkness!
   6. **Philippians 4:8-9** – In order to have God with us, we must meditate (think on) things which are acceptable before Him.
      1. **Does our entertainment contain things contrary to this?**
      2. Do we give time to this kind of thought?
9. When considering our speech.
   1. **Do we think before we speak? Are our thoughts, and therefore our speech, captive to the obedience of Christ?**
   2. **Luke 6:43-45** – Our speech reveals our true man.
      1. Connecting with the previous topic, when we let evil entertainment into our lives, it will affect our speech.
      2. **Are we a good tree, or a bad tree? – Our speech will tell.**
   3. **James 3:6-12** – The tongue is capable of great evil.
      1. **(v. 8)** – we cannot tame the tongue. We must constantly watch what we say. **If we do not, the tongue untamed can unleash evil.**
      2. **(v. 11)** – our speech must be pure. Double speech, like double mindedness **(1:7; 4:8)** reveals a flaw in character.
   4. **Ephesians 4:29** – We must not speak to hurt, but to build up.
      1. Corrupt – rotten; worthless.
      2. **Do we question whether our words will help or hurt another? Are they WORTH anything?**
      3. **Profanity, crude speech, sexual innuendo, lies, etc. (cf. 5:3-4)**
   5. **Ephesians 4:31-32** – Do we hold on to bitterness, and vilify others? So we cry aloud in uncontrolled anger?
      1. Evil speaking – vilification
      2. Clamor – loud quarreling
      3. Forgiving one another – when forgiveness is sought by another in repentance. (Willing to forgive.
      4. **1 Peter 2:1-3** – lay aside evil speaking.
   6. **Having our thoughts captive to the obedience of Christ requires us to think before we speak!**
10. **Conclusion: Every facet of our lives (including the entertainment we consume, and the way we talk) must be subservient to Christ. We must allow our thoughts to be governed by His word! (cf. Romans 12:1-2 –** *We are not conformed to the world’s standards, but transformed by Christ’s standard. He rules in our hearts, and controls our every move.***)**