

**2 Corinthians**  
**Chapter 10-13:10**  
***Paul defends his ministry***  
**Section 1 (10:1-18)**

**Chapter 10:1-18**

1. **What kind of people is this letter addressed to? (1:1).** Christians! The church of God in Corinth and Achaia (southern Greece).
2. **How does this world engage in conflict? Give some specific examples of the world's way of handling conflict.** Violent confrontation, litigation, threats, intimidation, name calling, ridicule, arguments, slander, libel, silent treatment, avoidance, etc.
  - a. **What are some ways that people try to get ahead (good or bad)?** Self promotion, criticizing rivals, flattery, bribery, "pulling strings," attacking competitors, hard work and education, honesty, dishonesty, seduction, etc. It can be an almost endless list.
  - b. **In what ways do people attack others?** They will impugn the motives of others, the works of others, the character of others. They will run down others' abilities and motives. They will smile to one's face and work against them behind the scenes. Slander can get passed on and malicious rumors spread.
  - c. **In what ways do people defend themselves?** "They try to fight fire with fire." They seek to tell "their side" of the issue. They tell people uninvolved in the conflict (or anyone who will listen) what that rotten so and so did to them, etc. They fight with all the world's weapons and strategies instead of or in addition to using God's.
3. **God says that our warfare and weapons need to be different.**
  - a. **List our weapons (See Eph 6:10-18):** Faith, a readiness to share the gospel, God's righteousness, salvation, God's truth, the word of God and faithful prayer. We need to rest in God's power and strength. See also Eph 1:15-23 - this is stuff that He wants us to know!
  - b. **Where do these weapons originate?** They are ours by faith in Christ. They come from Him by the Holy Spirit.
  - c. **Look up Rom 12:9-21 and Lk 6:27-36 and describe God's way of dealing with conflict.**
    - **Rom 12:9-21** Being patient in affliction, faithfulness in prayer, returning evil with good, making sure that if there is conflict, we are not instigating or perpetuating it. Striving to live at peace with everyone.
    - **Lk 6:27-36** Treating even our enemies as we desire to be treated. Not returning insult for insult, or harm for harm. Doing good to even the ungrateful and the wicked. Being merciful.
  - d. **What should be the believer's focus? (See 1 Jn 2:15-17).** The eternal will of God.

- 4. God has called us to a new basis of thinking. I call it, "kingdom thinking."**
- a. How does this way of thinking differ from the world's (2 Cor 10:2-3 and the other passages that you have looked up in Rom and Lk)?** It is focused on God's will and the welfare of others. It deals with conflict God's way and not in the world's. The world looks after "number one," God wants us to care for our neighbor as ourselves. See Phil 2:1-11, esp. vs 1-4. Because we have received encouragement from our union with Christ, comfort from His love, fellowship with the Spirit and God's tenderness and compassion we are to be like minded, have the same sincere love for each other and seek unity. We are to care for and esteem others ahead of ourselves, and look out for their welfare.
  - b. In Act 6, the infant church was directed to seek out seven men who were known to be full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. If you were given that mandate, what would you look for?** People who manifest godly wisdom and the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23).

**HOMEWORK**  
**2 Cor 11**

Ok folks, please read chapter 11 along with two pretty brief letters: Jude and 2 Peter and answer the following questions:

- 1. From 2 Pet 2 and Jude write out a description of false teachers/prophets.**
- 2. From 2 Cor 11, describe the "super apostles" who were trying to alienate the Corinthians from Paul.**
  - a. What did they preach (11:1-4).**
  - b. What is their spiritual condition based on that (Gal 1:6-9 and 2 Cor 11:13-15)?**
  - c. How far was Paul willing to go to avoid being a stumbling block and to draw a line between true and false ministry (11:7-12)?**
- 3. From 11:16-32**
  - a. Describe the "super apostles."**
  - b. Describe Paul and his coworkers. B**
  - c. Describe Paul's ministry and its hazards.**
  - d. How is Paul's shepherd's heart seen in this passage?**
  - e. Compare Jer 23:1-4 and 1 Pet 5:1-7**

