

# War Is Dirty

War is a dirty endeavor. Things are destroyed and people are killed. However, we understand war is necessary at times. When Hitler threatened the world, he needed to be stopped. The only way to stop him was by going to war. The same is true with the current war on terrorism. In many cases, the only way to stop the terrorists is to kill them.

When our men begin to die in war, some become squeamish about it. Some Americans expect war to be clean, no death and destruction. This is simply not reality.

Similarly, some Christians expect our warfare with the devil and his legions to be clean. The Bible says our struggle with him is like wrestling (Ephesians 6:12). This means we must engage the enemy in hand-to-hand combat, throwing him down before he throws us down. Such things can get messy.

Our weapons are not carnal (2 Corinthians 10:3-5). Rather, we use the armor of God, including the sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:13-17). Much of the armor is defensive: breastplate of righteousness, shoes of the gospel, shield of faith, helmet of salvation. One piece is offensive, the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. This is used to "kill" the enemy.

With the sword of the Spirit we destroy the doctrines of the devil and his ministers (2 Corinthians 10:3-5). Often this can cause fierce reaction from others. They may strive to cut off our influence (cf. 2 Corinthians 10:10-11). We may be called names or said to be trouble makers (Acts 24:5). Some Christians want to avoid these types of troubles, and, therefore, will not enter the fight.

Further, some simply do not like to go on the offensive, taking out the enemy. They think it is unbecoming of a child of God. If a man is exposed for teaching false doctrine, they cry and complain about how he is being mistreated (cf. Romans 16:17-18). Yet, the Lord and His apostles were relentless in destroying error (Luke 11:37-54; Ephesians 5:11; cf. Galatians; Hebrews).

Carnal warfare is dirty. People are killed and things are destroyed. Spiritual warfare is messy too. The enemy will not give up his territory

(souls) without a fight. We will not conquer that territory with confronting him.

The battle for lost souls goes on. Are you willing to fight? If so, then be ready to take injuries and tear down error (2 Timothy 3:12; 4:2-5).

Steven F. Deaton