

Faithful to Truth in an Age of Tolerance

Lesson 3: Contending for the Truth

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Faithfulness to truth is not merely personal faithfulness to do what God wants. In order to remain faithful to truth, we must also *stand* for the truth—we must *stand up* for the truth: being willing to engage others. The world calls us to “coexist,” but we must be ready to “contradict.”

The word **contradict** means to *DENY the truth of some claim, especially by offering a counterclaim in its place.*

In simple terms, it is saying, “That is FALSE but this is TRUE.”

In 2 Corinthians 4:3–5 Paul gives us special insight about biblical *contradiction*. In these brief verses we can discern *four elements* suggest to us the *nature* of contending for the truth:

1. Contending for the truth is a BATTLE.
2. The battle is SPIRITUAL.
3. Our WEAPONS are spiritual.
4. Our ENEMY is FALSEHOOD.
 - a. We PULL DOWN strongholds of disbelief.
 - b. We TAKE CAPTIVE false ideas.

Paul’s Battle Terminology in 2 Corinthians 10:3–5*

v. 3	waging war	<i>We are not waging war according to the flesh.</i>
v. 4	siege engines	<i>For the weapons . . .</i>
v. 4	warfare	<i>of our warfare . . .</i>
v. 4	demolish	<i>have divine power to destroy . . .</i>
v. 4	strongholds, fortresses	<i>strongholds.</i>
v. 5	bastions of argumentation	<i>We destroy arguments . . .</i>
v. 5	rampart battlement	<i>and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God . . .</i>
v. 5	take prisoner, carry into captivity	<i>and take . . . captive . . .</i>
v. 5	battle-plan, device, opposing design	<i>and take every thought captive . . .</i>
v. 5	subjection, submission	<i>to obey Christ.</i>

*Adapted from Murray J. Harris, *The Second Epistle to the Corinthians* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 2005), 676.