

Introduction:

Wars are fought on many different stages, fronts, with different methods and goals. The ultimate goal of any war is to win. In the Bible the analogy of warfare is used in speaking of Christians conflict with this world. Paul in writing to Timothy says, things are going to get worse as far as the conflict between that culture and Christianity. **2 Timothy 3:1** *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! 6 For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, 7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.* The nature of our warfare is different than most wars but it with the aim of winning. **2 Corinthians 10:3** *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”* The Book of Revelation can be divided into two parts, **chapters 1-11** the world against the church, **chapters 12-22** Satan against God. Today we are experiencing a war of sorts, the “Culture War” and the “Spiritual War.”

I) The Conflict

A) Cultural Wars -Social groups

1. Doesn't matter who you are or what group you belong, but

you have some type of conflict with another group.

a. New Testament times – religious sects among the Jews- Sadducees, Pharisees.

2. As I said before, people are different.

B) Deeper spiritual conflict.

1. ***Ephesians 6:12*** *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

2. Battle for the feelings and thoughts of mankind.

II) Enemies

A) Cultural war “us” against “them”

1. By enemy I mean those who disagree with my group. ***Acts 19:28*** *Now when they heard this, they were full of wrath and cried out, saying, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!"*

2. The main point is to punish the other people.

B) Spiritual war – devil

1. He is against all humanity.

1 John 5:19 *We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.*

2. He is a lion- ***1 Peter 5:8*** *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*

3. A murderer and a liar - ***John 8:44*** *"You are of your father*

the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

4. We fight against his lies and his devices.

III) **Desire**

A) **Cultural War**

1. To enforce certain values and transform the culture.
2. During the first century- Emperor worship, pledge allegiance to Rome, idolatry.
3. During our time to promote a certain lifestyle, certain way of thinking and talking.
 - a. Homosexual movement – transgender
 - b. Economic transformation – from one system to socialism or government run economy.

B) **Spiritual War**

1. To obey the Gospel of Christ
2. Accept Him as the Son of God.
 - a. repent of their sins- ***Acts 2:40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation."***
 - b. Live pure and holy lives – sanctified- ***2 Timothy 2:21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and***

useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

3. To love our fellowman and God.
4. To point to the cross of Christ, no matter what our culture says.

IV) Tied to or Associated With

A) Cultural War

1. Political parties or certain social platforms. Democrat, Republican, Antifa, Proud Boys.
2. Often people don't know what is being promoted or taught but only it is the group they support.

B) Spiritual War

1. Tied to the Kingdom of God. The kingdom made up of the righteous, those united with Christ.
2. The kingdom living under the authority of God.

Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.

V) Focus

A) Cultural War

1. Our earthly citizenship and social life.
2. Member of the United States, the woke crowd, etc.

B) Spiritual War

1. Heavenly citizenship- recognizing the government and our obligations to such government, **Romans 13.1-5**

Matthew 22:20 And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?" **21** They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

2. But our main focus is obeying the law of God.
3. We get to enjoy the benefits and responsibilities of being part of Christ's body.

Ephesians 1:20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, **21** far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. **22** And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, **23** which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

VI) Victory

A) Cultural War

1. See some new policy or social work by stopping those opposed.
2. Then passing legislation.
3. New. Testament – the stopping of the Gospel followed by persecution of the saints.

B) Spiritual War

1. Gained by the blood of the lamb.

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

2. By His blood our sins are washed away and we gain the victory.

I heard an old, old story, how a Savior came from glory
How He gave His life on Calvary to save a wretch like me
I heard about His groaning, of His precious blood's atoning
Then I repented of my sins and won the victory

Oh victory in Jesus, my Savior forever
He sought me and bought me with His redeeming blood
He loved me 'ere I knew Him and all my love is due Him
He plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood

I heard about His healing, of His cleansing power revealing
How He made the lame to walk again and 'caused the blind to see
And then I cried, "Dear Jesus, come and heal my broken spirit"
And somehow Jesus came and brought to me the victory

Oh victory in Jesus, my Savior forever
He sought me and He bought me with His redeeming blood
He loved me 'ere I knew Him and all my love is due Him
He plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood, c'mon

Oh victory in Jesus, my Savior forever
He sought me and He bought me with His redeeming blood
He loved me 'ere I knew Him and all my love is due Him
He plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood
He plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood

2. Over coming the world by the blood of Christ.
3. May appear defeated but the ultimate victory is assured.

1 John 2:17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

VII) Goal(s)

A) Cultural war

1. Change and enforce moral codes.
2. Emperor worship, humanism, atheism, socialism, and the other isms.

B) Spiritual War

1. To save souls, redeem humanity.

1 John 5:1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. 4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith. 5 Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that

Jesus is the Son of God?

2. The Book of Revelation tells us who wins and it is God's side.

Revelation 12:9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. **10** Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

Conclusion:

Perhaps one good thing about the conflict we are seeing in our country is we know it exists. In times past some may have argument, we are not at war! But Christianity has always been in conflict with the ways of this world.