



Open Heart: Living in Christ With Nothing to Hide
Defending our Ministry
2 Corinthians 10: 1-18 | January 31st - February 6th, 2016

Warm Up: As you may remember, the Apostle Paul is defending the gospel from those who had entered the fellowship of the Corinthians in order to “steal” them to another gospel. Read **2 Corinthians 5:17-21** aloud. These verses are foundational to our lives. Which idea(s) expressed in this passage speak most deeply to you in this season of life? Why? (a summary: v 17- new creations, v 18 ministry of reconciliation, v 20 ambassadors for Christ, v 21 the righteousness of God.)

- ❖ Have you ever had to defend yourself from physical or verbal attack? Perhaps it was an assault on your character? Share (as appropriate).
 - How did this make you feel at the time?
 - How well prepared were you to defend yourself?
 - What do you feel this attack revealed about your character?
- ❖ In order to build a proper defense, we must first begin with ourselves. Consider the following questions: *Is my life defensible? What is the message I’m projecting through my life and ministry? Under who’s authority am I truly operating?* Discuss some answers you have to these questions. What competing authorities do you, at times, wrestle with?
- ❖ Read **2 Corinthians 10:1-18** aloud. What key characteristics should our lives reflect as we defend the gospel and/or interact with the world? (consider v. 1, 5, 8)
 - What are strongholds (v.4)? Why is it so important to deal with them? Do you have a testimony of God delivering you from a particular stronghold? What “weapons” were used in the battle?
 - In v. 4 and 5 we are called to “destroy,” yet in v. 8, to “build up.” What is Paul trying to teach us about how we are to conduct ourselves?
- ❖ Several times on Sunday Pastor George mentioned that humility before the Lord results in boldness in our dealings with others. What was meant by this? How have you experienced this to be true in your life?

Wrap Up: Jesus is our ultimate authority and His Word is our living and active guide (Heb. 4:12). Spend time in prayer asking God to use us His Word THIS week to truly engage your hearts, thoughts and actions. May we all seek to live with open and humble hearts, holding nothing back from our good Father.