

*A Militant Church*  
[www.cvillechurch.com](http://www.cvillechurch.com)

**Introduction:** The people of God have a great work to do.

- A. The primary work of God is placed upon the individual Christian.
  - 1. Opportunities for this distinctive work will come from others seeing a living faith in our lives. **(Mt 5:14-16)**
  - 2. Our duties and opportunities as individuals are greater and broader than the collective work of a local church. **(1 Tim 5:16; Gal 6:10)**
- B. Both the local church and its members are in a war that requires the urgency and sacrifice of war. **(2 Tim 2:1-4)**
  - 1. If spiritual realities are a priority on our lives then we are truly at war.
  - 2. Do you know the enemy? Which way to the battlefield? Are you equipped to use your weapons?

**I. We face a fearsome and mighty adversary**

- A. Satan is the commander of the opposing army. **(1 Pt 5:8)**
  - 1. He knows your name Christian and wants you personally. **(Lk 22:31)**
  - 2. We need to have a keen awareness that we could fall into his grasp! (Ex. “How could that Christian have done such a thing!”)
- B. In fact our adversary has a mighty army. **(Eph 6:10-13)**
  - 1. It is an army of spiritual beings that control most leaders in the civil governments of this world. **(Jn 12:31; 1 Cor 2:6-8)**
  - 2. Consider the forces arrayed against Christ. **(Acts 4:25-30)**
  - 3. Are you looking to political reform and leaders to bring this world to righteousness?
- C. Satan has powerful weapons that we alone cannot overcome. **(1 Jn 2:15-17; 1 Pt 2:11)**
  - 1. Satan is relentless and thorough. Partial preparation will fail every time. **(Eph 5:15-16)**
  - 2. Satan will use our passions along with his powerful lies to conquer us and then convince us to close the door of our hearts. **(Eph 4:17-19)**
  - 3. It is becoming an all too common sight to see Christians become overcome by their passions and then cut other Christians off. (Ex. Group that left in anger.)
  - 4. There is nothing more effective in Satan’s army than a closed mind.

**II. We have a powerful leader with mighty weapons**

- A. Jesus successfully resisted Satan and then defeated him. **(Jn 14:29-31; Heb 2:14-16)**
  - 1. He has defeated the adversary and will give us aid!
  - 2. We must be willing to volunteer for His army. **(Heb 2:10)**
- B. We first must secure our own souls.
  - 1. This is done by building and maintaining a biblical faith. **(1 Pt 5:8-10)**
  - 2. You are heading for trouble when you stop exercising!
  - 3. We must in humility see our own weaknesses and fight the temptation to give in to our passions. We often can find a predictable pattern in our lives.

- C. We need to understand the weapons that will be used. **(2 Cor 10:3-6)**
  - 1. We must be clear in our teaching and bold in our application. **(Mt 3:1,7-11)**
  - 2. Satan will tempt us to treat the word of God like we are in a college class.
    - a. We can speculate and “reason” to the point of paralysis without seeing the clear teaching of the Lord.
    - b. We can praise the “open-mindedness” of those who never come to a conclusion and attack those who speak out in “absolutes.”
    - c. This spirit fears openness and tries to work in the background.
  - 3. Our goal is to open a heart to God’s word. **(2 Tim 2:24-26)**
    - a. We need to see examples of how to do this.
    - b. There is a plan of teaching laid out with specific strongholds of Satan targeted.

***III. Are we fighting the right opponent?***

- A. Some talk of militancy but in fact are promoting sectarianism. **(Jn 7:48-49)**
  - 1. One creates a sect when their loyalty shifts to a group of men and not the Lord. **(2 Cor 10; 12, 18)**
  - 2. Those within a sect are fearful of disappointing the leaders. **(Jn 12:42-43; 9:22)**
  - 3. When you are in a sect you may oppose error that your leaders direct you to oppose. However you must turn a blind eye to the errors of your leaders. **(Mt 23:1-3, 13-14, 23-24)**
  - 4. When one is in a sect they will use canal weapons to achieve their end. Personal attacks made in the background is a favorite weapon of Satan.
  - 5. Often the sects will fight each other just like the Pharisees and Sadducees.
  - 6. We need to fight sectarianism and not join it in the name of militancy.
- B. We can in the name of militancy be promoting the work of Satan.
  - 1. We can under the deception of Satan be tearing down the work of Christ. **(Gal 5:13-15)**
  - 2. It is too easy to become embittered and recruit others to the cause of bitterness.
  - 3. We counter this by forgives and the love of God.
  - 4. It may take someone close to us to be militant in pointing out the attitudes within our hearts and calling us to repentance! (Ex. Nathan the prophet)
  - 5. If we are not on the battlefield fighting Satan then we can easily turn to playing or fighting each other.

***IV. We need more fighting troops on the battlefield***

- A. Can you picture the Lord saying these words? **(Lk 10:2; Jn 4:34-35)**
  - 1. Are we viewing our afternoon study and just another class or are we planning on using it? Do you know how to use the harvesting equipment?
  - 2. Consider the opportunities we have at every age level.
- B. The more militant we are the more Satan will throw at us.
  - 1. Why would Satan bother us when we are quietly letting the battle go by?
  - 2. Watch out for what happens when we begin to influence the hearts of those captured by Satan. **(Acts 4:18-20)**

***Conclusion:*** We need to report to our commander now for active duty!