

## To Fight or Not to Fight...That is Still the Question

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### Warriors or Spectators

Fight the good fight of faith (1 Tim 6:12)  
....as a good soldier of Christ Jesus (2 Tim. 2:3)

### Peacemakers, Peacefakers, or Peacebreakers

Don't pick fights without reason (Prov. 3:20; 15:18; 29:22...)  
Be at peace with all men (Rom. 12:18)  
Go to your brother (Matt. 18:15; Gal. 6:1; James 5:19)

### James 5:19

My dear brothers and sisters, if someone among you wanders away from the truth and is brought back, you can be sure that whoever brings the sinner back from wandering will save that person from death and bring about the forgiveness of many sins.

### Back to the Beginning

God Created - and it was good!  
He created man in His image - and it was very good!

The serpent appeared - and **the war began!**

### Genesis 3:1-5

The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?"

2 "Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden," the woman replied. 3 "It's only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, 'You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.'"

4 "You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman. 5 "God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil."

### Paradise Lost The battle is "on"

Man's inheritance - a sin nature  
The nature of man has huge implications in the war for our culture....worldview

**What are we fighting for?**

**What are we fighting against?**

**What should we not be fighting?**

### FIGHT FOR TRUTH

#### John 8:44

He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.

#### Deuteronomy 6:6-9

These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates.

**John 8:32**

And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

**FIGHT THE CULTURE WARS / FIGHT FOR CONTROL** (who determines good and evil)

“Culture” refers to a large and diverse set of mostly intangible aspects of social life, including values, beliefs, systems of language, communication, and practices that people share in common and that can be used to define them as a collective

Consider the Old Testament - God had His people destroy a number of other cultures completely.....WHY?

PERSONAL STORY.....at the very beginning of the pandemic.....”Live not the lie”  
Remembered my China experience....propaganda and willing liars

Some understanding grew: Deception seldom allows dissenting voices  
Truth doesn’t change; our discovery of it might  
A continuing process....God tells us we can ask for wisdom; He offers the gift of discernment and gives us His Holy Spirit

**Back to the beginning again**

God created the heavens and the earth  
In His image - “very good”  
Not good to be alone  
Be fruitful and multiply  
Govern, care for the earth  
The two are united into one  
Don’t eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil

**GOD HAS SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE WORLD**

**Values**

**Beliefs**

**Language**

**Communication**

**Shared practices**

**DO I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY OR DO ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE WORLD?**

**Philippians 1:27-30**

Live your lives as the Good News of Christ says you should. If I come to you or not, I want to hear that you are standing true as one. I want to hear that you are working together as one, preaching the Good News. 28 Do not be afraid of those who hate you. Their hate for you proves they will be destroyed. It proves you have life from God that lasts forever. 29 You are not only to put your trust in Him, but you are to suffer for Him also. 30 You know what the fight is like. Now it is time for you to have a part in it as I have.