



Discussion Guide

July 22, 2018

Contrast: *This Means War*

Introduction: Read II Corinthians 10:1-6 together.

You can watch Bart's sermon for the 22nd if you were absent on Sunday. Please receive this encouragement as you begin to discuss this very important topic. It will be so easy for your group to make this a discussion about the moral slide going on in our culture. That is an easy discussion – but it keeps the real issue at arms-length. The much more important discussion to have is how you personally can be vigilant and alert, ensuring that God has the loudest voice speaking into your life. Conduct an honest assessment of how you are keeping God's truth and his worldview, front and center in your mind.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever done any kind of evaluation as to how much time you spend on electronic media devices each day – cell phone, iPad, computer? Do you feel that you are in a good healthy place with that, or do you have an inner sense that you are overdoing it in an unhealthy way? What are your favorite mass-media go-to's?
2. Bart listed three lies that have gained wide acceptance in the culture of America. (1) This world, including you, is a happenstance. Human life is purely natural and not sacred. (2) Absolute moral codes are detrimental – standards of right and wrong should be in constant flux. (3) Belief in a spiritual world, including a belief in God, is delusional and illogical. Again, try and keep this personal. Do you ever find yourself accepting any degree of the above statements in ways that affect the way you live or interact with others?



3. Bart also listed three statements of absolute truth that completely contradict the lies above. (1) God is surely real and alive. [Romans 1:20; Hebrews 11:6] (2) God is the creator of all things, including human life which is made in his image. [Genesis 1:1; Genesis 1:26,27] (3) There is a universal unchanging moral code for human life. [Isaiah 5:20] Do you find yourself with questions about these statements, but you are hesitant to ask them for fear of causing offense? Do you have answers for those who might question your belief in these declarations from scripture?

4. Very practically, how can we go about taking all ideas and thoughts captive that enter our minds through mass media and otherwise? How do you go about an evaluation process of what is true or not, considering the truth of God's word? Can you think of a time when you came to a crossroads of decision concerning what is true, and scripture helped you in your discernment?

Moving Forward:

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (Ephesians 6:12) In Ephesians 6:10-18 Paul lists the armament at our disposal, enabling us to survive and overcome in this cosmic battle for mankind's hearts, minds and souls. Close in prayer for each other and your homes, that you can be overcomers in allowing the truth of God to guide you through the maze of conflicting perspectives in today's world.