

Spiritual Warfare



MEMORY VERSE: “For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but... against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.”
Ephesians 6:12

Verses 22-33 concerns marriage, but this information is useful for all relationships. God made mankind male and female with their distinctive nature and roles so that in marriage they could display Christ and the church. A husband and wife are equal before God with different roles to play and responsibilities to assume.

DAY 1 EPHESIANS 5:21-33—Spirit Guided Relationships

1. Submitting is voluntarily yielding to consider the other’s needs more than your own. Why does verse 21 tell us submit to one another?
2. What does Paul tell us in verses 22? Why? vv. 23-24
3. What are husbands to do? Why? vv. 25a, 28-29
4. How did Christ show His great love for the church (His bride)? vv. 25b-27
5. Read verses 30-33. How would following these commands help marriages?

DAY 2 EPHESIANS 6:1-9—Spirit Guided Relationships

6. What are children to do? Why?

7. Read verse 4. We desperately need strong, godly homes. Share ideas to help parents raise children *“with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.”*

8. Fortunately, in most countries, we no longer have slavery; but the advice in these verses is still appropriate.(school, jobs...) What do verses 5-7a say?

9. What are we to do? What will happen? vv. 7-8

10. When you are in the position of “boss/leader” how should you act? Why? v. 9

DAY 3 EPHESIANS 6:10-20—Fighting Against the Darkness

11. What are we to do? Why? vv. 10-12

12. What is our goal? v. 13

13. What is the armor that God gives us?

v. 14a

v. 14b

v. 15

v. 16

v. 17a

v. 17b

How does each help us?

Know Jesus/Truth and why you believe

Right with God because of our faith in Jesus

Be ready with the Truth and filled with peace

Faith - God will provide everything we need

Hope - are saved and always saved

Bible - able to equip us with what we need

14. How can you put God’s strength and armor to work? v. 18

DAY 4 EPHESIANS 6:19-23—Final Words

15. What does Paul ask? v. 19-20

16. How does Paul end this letter? v. 23-24

17. Paul concludes as he began with reference to grace and peace, two essential cornerstones for the Christian life. What has this study shown you about grace and peace?

DAY 5 EPHESIANS 5:21-6:23—Wrap Up

18. What specific ways can you submit to others (considering their needs more than your own) and live in peace with others this week?

19. We have learned a lot about who we are in Christ, the way we should live and how we should treat each other - all to prepare us for battle. How has studying Ephesians impacted your life?

TAKE AWAY

In life's battles, God furnishes you with armor you need to fight. Sometimes the devil makes you question who you are. Sometimes he comes at you with fear. Sometimes, you fight against things you know are wrong but that are just hard to stop. Stand up and fight knowing you're equipped and that God is on our side.

BLESSING

Let us seek the strength and power of God to live our lives in a manner which is pleasing to God. Truly, these things are impossible apart from Christ, but in Christ we can do all things!

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The second part of Ephesians 5 (verses 22–33) addresses mutual submission between husband and wife. Ephesians 5:22–24 focuses first on wives. They are called to submit to their husbands as to the Lord (Ephesians 5:22), with Paul using the analogy of Christ and the church as an example (Ephesians 5:23–24).

Husbands are then addressed and called to love their wives as Christ loved the church (Ephesians 5:25). They are to love their wives as they do their own bodies, teaching that the man who loves his wife loves himself (Ephesians 5:28). Husbands are to imitate Jesus Christ, the Head of the church, who cherishes and nourishes the church, unselfishly giving Himself for her protection and welfare. In summary, Paul reminds husbands to love their wives as they do themselves and for wives to respect their husbands (Ephesians 5:33).

Chapter 6 offer four primary points closing out Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus. First, he provides instruction regarding children and parents (Ephesians 6:1–4). Secondly, instructions for the relationship between masters and servants (Ephesians 6:5–9). Thirdly, Paul discusses the armor of God (Ephesians 6:10–20). Finally, Paul concludes with final greetings to his readers (Ephesians 6:21–24).

The first section (Ephesians 6:1–4) teaches children to obey their parents. This instruction is based on one of the Ten Commandments (Ephesians 6:2–3). Fathers are not to provoke their children to anger. Instead, they are to raise them according to God's discipline and

instruction (Ephesians 6:4). The pattern for human obedience to one another is Jesus Christ's obedience to His Father. Families survive and thrive when their members function according to God's design, operating in submission to one another under the direction of the Bible and the Holy Spirit. Each member must stand against the rebellion and self-focus so prevalent today.

The second section addresses servants and masters (Ephesians 6:5–9). Servants are to obey their masters with a sincere heart as if serving the Lord (Ephesians 6:5–7). Whatever good they do will be received back (Ephesians 6:8). Masters are to treat their servants in the same way and not threaten them. Masters are to recognize they and their servants have a common Master in heaven that judges fairly (Ephesians 6:9). Slavery was a common practice in Ephesus, so Paul takes the opportunity to encourage Christian slaves to be loyal and obedient to their masters. He is not expressing approval of slavery, nor should we. He was dealing with a fact of life in the first century A.D. As men responded to the gospel, they began to lead changed lives that resulted in the improvement of oppressive social conditions.

The third part (Ephesians 6:10–20) discusses the armor of God. Paul likely has the Roman soldiers' armor in mind as he describes the whole armor of God. It is a picture of Jesus Christ. We stand secure in Him. He is the truth (John 14:6); He is our righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21); He is our peace (Ephesians 2:14); He is the source of our faith (John 1:12) and our salvation (Luke 2:30); He is the Word of God (John 1:1, 14). When we

trusted Jesus we put on the armor (at the moment of salvation). However, we must appropriate Him on a daily basis so that Satan cannot find a chink in the armor. We must “dress” in His armor every day.

Believers are to be strong in the Lord (Ephesians 6:10) and put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:11) to stand against Satan’s schemes. Our battle is spiritual, not physical (Ephesians 6:12). This armor allows believers to stand firm in the faith (Ephesians 6:13). It includes the belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, shoes with readiness, the shield of faith, and the helmet of salvation (Ephesians 6:14–17). The Word of God is listed as the one offensive weapon, used both to protect and to strike back against evil (Ephesians 6:17). Believers are to pray at all times, keep alert, and persevere (Ephesians 6:18). Paul also asked his readers to pray for him to speak boldly about Christ (Ephesians 6:19–20).

The final part of this letter (Ephesians 6:21–24) mentions a few final greetings to his readers. Paul says he is sending Tychicus to tell them more about his situation (Ephesians 6:21). His goal was to encourage them during his visit with this letter (Ephesians 6:22).

Paul ends by offering peace, love, and faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 6:23). He ends with his distinctive mention of giving grace to “all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible” (Ephesians 6:24). This love that cannot be corrupted is a true, genuine love that Paul experienced in his time with the Ephesian believers that could not be stopped. It had already spread throughout the entire region and would continue to change lives long after Paul’s letter.

Notes