

Ephesians

More than a Makeover

War... What War?

Ephesians 6:10-13

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / August 24, 2025

Three Strategies in **Ephesians 6:10-13** to help you live out the Gospel and avoid becoming a spiritual casualty:

I. **You Better Wake Up To The Fact That We're In A Spiritual War**

If you're a Christian, your soul, body, mind, family, friends, and career are all fields of conflict. Until Satan is thrown into the lake of fire, our peace with God puts us at war with him because the moment you enter into a relationship with Jesus and have peace with God, Satan declares war on you!

Revelation 12:7-9, 17 shows us how this war began.

Satan doesn't want you getting on a wartime footing. He wants to keep you amused, asleep, and distracted.

"There are thousands of men and women who go to church every Sunday and call themselves Christians... but you never see any "fight" about their religion! Of spiritual strife, and exertion, and conflict, and self-denial, and watching, and warring they know literally nothing at all... The saddest symptom about many so-called Christians is the utter absence of anything like conflict or fight... All true saints are soldiers. A real Christian can be known as much by his inward warfare as by his inward peace."

- J.C. Ryle, *Holiness*

All wars are costly, messy, and confusing, but some wars are a lot messier and more confusing than others, like those that are fought at close-range.

Ephesians 6:12 "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood..."

Certain soldiers do wrestle because they're on the front lines where the battle is so intense and so close, that it's hand-to-hand combat where they grapple and wrestle each other to the ground, in a life and death struggle to the end.

The Greek word for wrestle that Paul uses in **v. 12** means to grapple or engage in hand-to-hand combat at close range.

II. **You Need To Realize That If You're A Christian You're Already Enlisted But It's Your Choice To Fight Or Just Go With The Flow**

Every day you make a choice whether you're going to stand, resist, and oppose the forces of evil or just sit back and go with the flow.

Paul uses the word "stand" 4x! It's the Greek word "histemi" from where we get our English word "antihistamine" – that means to block, resist, or stand against.

Ephesians 6:11 “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to **stand** against the schemes of the devil.”

Ephesian 6:13 “Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to **withstand** in the evil day, and having done all, to **stand firm**.”

Ephesians 6:14 “**Stand** therefore...”

Engaging the battle will not be automatic. You’ll have to think about it and you’ll have to choose to engage every day.

III. You Better Recognize Who The Real Enemy Is And What His Favorite Strategies Are

To win a war, you need to identify who the real enemy is and then you need to go to school on how your enemy operates and what his favorite strategies are.

A. Satan Is The Real Enemy

Ephesians 6:11 “...stand against the schemes of the devil.”

B. Your Enemy – Satan – Is Not Alone

Ephesians 6:12 “...cosmic powers...[and] spiritual forces of evil.”

Paul wanted those phrases in **v.12** to make you feel overwhelmed with a sense of evil and layers of darkness and wickedness. We’re outgunned, outmanned, and outmaneuvered as far a power and resources.

On our own we don’t have what we need to win this war!

C. Your Enemy Is A Seasoned And Street-Savvy Opponent

Satan’s been watching men and women for centuries - studying us and putting together the right strategy for taking us down.

D. He Rarely Comes At Us Head-On

He’s smarter than that! He knows that most Christians are alert to any direct and obvious assault on their faith and morals, so that’s rarely how he does it. But there’s a word in **v. 11** that shows us how he operates.

Ephesians 6:11 “...schemes of the devil.”

That word “scheme” is the Greek word “methodeias” from which we get our English word “method” or “methodology.” It means a systematic way of doing things that’s been carefully thought through. In other words, Satan has thought through how he’s coming after you. It’s not random or fuzzy. It’s a specific way for taking us down!

Satan’s not impulsive like we are. He’s patient, crafty, and willing to wait for months or years, if necessary, to set the right trap.

Ephesians 6:12 “...cosmic powers over this present darkness...”

The word “cosmic” is the Greek word “kosmokrator” and it means a ruling power or little god of this world.

He doesn't have to get us to deny that God exists. Instead, he deceives us into heading down a path of making gods out of something else in this world. The Bible has a word for that – idolatry. Idolatry is his #1 strategy!

His favorite strategy is to take something good that God created and to turn into a “god thing” that you think will serve you and keep you from needing God, but it ends up enslaving you!

When God's Word calls him a kosmokrator, it's because he's a false god creator who takes good things that God gave us and leads us to twist them and turn them into god things.

Challenges for you:

1. Do what Pastor Peter challenged us to do last week. Start reading **Ephesians 6:10-20** every day for the next 30 days!
2. If the concept of fighting against good things that Satan tries to get you to turn into “god” things is new to you, get a copy of **Gospel Treason** and start reading and listen to the sermons that go along with it.