

Ephesians

More than a Makeover

“Vest Practices”

Ephesians 6:14

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / September 28, 2025

Ephesians 6:10-20 “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 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. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.”

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord. Response: ***Thanks Be To God!***

I. Know what you're already wearing: Christ's righteousness that can never come off!

A. When God saved you, He didn't just forgive your record.

Colossians 2:13-14 “And you, who were dead in your trespasses...God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the cross.”

B. When God saved you, He dressed you in Christ's own righteousness.

Isaiah 61:10 “...He has clothed me with the garments of salvation; He has covered me with the robe of righteousness...”

2 Corinthians 5:21 “For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

C. Your standing is settled. You're accepted and secure.

Romans 5:1-2 “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

Romans 8:1 “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

II. Don't assume that because you stand in Christ, you can stop walking with Christ.

Two Lies Satan Wants You To Believe About Righteousness

Lie #1: “Obedience is optional — grace means you can live like everyone else.” (**worldliness**)

Romans 6:1-2, 13 “What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?...¹³ Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life...”

Titus 2:11-12 “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age...”

Lie #2: “You’ve got this — you’re better than most.” (**self-righteousness**)

Luke 18:9, 11 “He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt... ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men...’”

III. You need the “breastplate of righteousness” to walk with Christ day after day!

Philippians 3:12-15 “Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, **but I press on to make it my own**, because Christ Jesus has made me His own. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and **straining forward** to what lies ahead, ¹⁴**I press on** toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵Let those of us who are mature think this way...”

4 Ways To Put On The Breastplate Of Righteousness

- A. **Shape your conscience with Scripture** — let God’s Word train your instincts.
- B. **Confess and repent quickly** — don’t let sin sit and harden your heart.
- C. **Obey daily in ordinary things** — faithfulness in small choices builds protection.
- D. **Suit up together** — help others put on their armor, and let them help you.

This week → Read Ephesians 6:10-20 every day (preferably aloud, preferably in the morning before your feet hit the floor). Pray: “Lord, guard me from self-righteousness and disobedience; help me walk in Your righteousness today.”

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group discussion:

1. When you think about being “clothed in Christ’s righteousness,” what feelings or images come to mind? How does that truth encourage or comfort you?
2. Review the verses about our settled standing in Christ (e.g., Isa. 61:10, 2 Cor. 5:21, Rom. 5:1–2). Which do you most need to remember right now? Why?
3. Which lie tends to be more dangerous for you personally — prideful self-righteousness or worldly compromise? Why?

4. Philippians 3:12–14 uses terms like “press on” and “straining forward.” What’s one area where you’ve grown weary of pressing on toward obedience? What’s fueling that weariness?
5. Who helps you “suit up” spiritually? Who could you invite to speak into your life when self-righteousness or worldliness creep in?