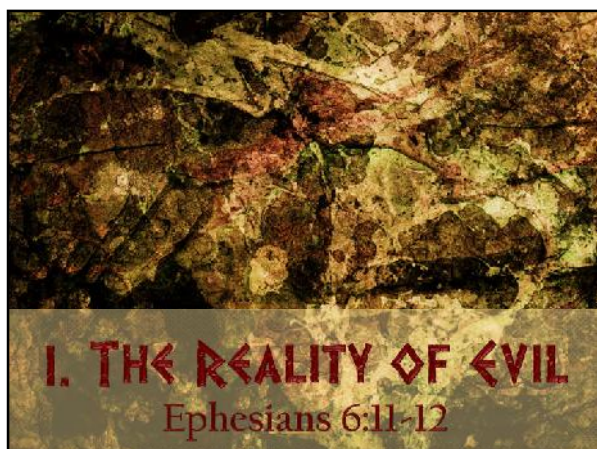




- We are invited to embrace the love that God has for us – we are his bride whom he passionately loves
- There is an aspect of ourselves that resists his love – our 'shadow side' – demonstrated in an internal spiritual battle



EVIL IS POWERFUL (V12)

- "the cosmic powers of this present darkness"
- "the spiritual forces of evil"
- Jesus calls Satan "the prince of this world" (John 12:31)
- "the world is under the control of the evil one" (1 John 5:19)

THE POWERS ARE WICKED (V12)

- "spiritual forces of evil"
- Power is used to destroy
- Not cute cartoon character
- Read Scott Peck, People of the Lie

THE POWERS ARE CUNNING (V11)

- "the wiles (strategies) of the devil" – crafty not stupid
- Rulers, authorities, cosmic powers, war, injustice, sexual exploitation, pollution

THE BATTLE

- The battle is fought on planet earth & in the human heart/soul
- Our addictions, choices, bondage, oppression, deception
- C.S. Lewis' Screwtape Letters

II. STAND AGAINST EVIL BY GOD'S STRENGTH

Ephesians 6:10, 11, 14

Once when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing before him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went to him and said to him, 'Are you one of us, or one of our adversaries?' He replied, 'Neither; but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.'

And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshipped, and he said to him, 'What do you command your servant, my lord?' The commander of the army of the LORD said to Joshua, 'Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy.' And Joshua did so.

Joshua 5: 13-15

- We stand in the strength of God (v10)
- His power in us enables us to resist evil (v10)

PUT ON GOD'S ARMOUR

- We stand by putting on the armour of God (v11)
- This armour enables us to stand
- Stand – v11 (1x), v13 (2x), v14 (1x)
- There is victory in Christ over evil

TAKE UP THE ARMOUR

'Put on Christ' (v13)

1. **Belt of truth** (v14) –
allow the truth to go deep in
your life – memorize the
truth, read/study the truth

2. **Breastplate of righteousness/justice** (v14) – stand for
justice/purity /protection
- Frodo protected from
death by his Elven
Chainmail

3. **Shoes of Peace** (v15)
- shoes of reconciliation
working for peace with
others /in
neighbourhoods

4. **Shield of Faith** (v16)
- body length shield of
Roman soldier
- protects us from doubt,
despair, temptation,
adversity

5. **Helmet of Salvation** (v17)
– wear your helmet
– know your destiny/hope
6. **Sword of God** (v17)
- the sword of the Spirit
- our offensive weapon

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Put the armour on and
you will stand.

III. COMBINE PRAYER WITH GOD'S ARMOUR

Ephesians 6:18

- Be diligent, persevere, be alert
- Pray in the Spirit at all times
- Live your life in dependence on the Spirit – as we do so we will gain the victory

...the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light;

Romans 13:12

SUMMARY

- i. The attacks will come
- ii. Put on the armour
- iii. You will stand