**Ephesians 6**

Our theme in July/August: Devoted to unity.

Theme of Ephesians: One in Him

Eph 1:3 The theme verse. Every spiritual blessing IN CHRIST. Our oneness is found IN CHRIST.

The most common description of a saved person in the Bible “in Christ” 70 by the time I hit 1 Thessalonians.

The point: We are one IN HIM. Outside of him we were not one, to say the least!

Our oneness is IN HIM!

Eph Ch 1-3 Theology

Eph Ch 4-6 Practical applications.

Which is it:

1. Paul is giving some cool theology, but the theology is there to support his real purpose, which is to admonish them in Christian living.

Or

2. Paul is giving a deep treatise on the theology of Christ, and throws in a few useful applications at the end to illustrate what he just taught.

My answer: Neither. Paul states his theology of Christ and then illustrates his theology of Christ with many practical examples, specifically about life in the Church. They are both examples of and applications of….

A couple of examples:

Eph 4:17-24 You cannot live that way. Why not? V. 20-21a because it is not consistent with what you know about Christ.

Eph 4:29 No unwholesome talk. Why? v. 30 Because it will grieve the Holy Spirit which is in you as a deposit (Eph 1:13-14)

Eph 4:32 Be kind and compassionate. Why? because God in Christ forgave you (Eph 1:7, 2:8-10)

Eph 5:1 Love one another. Why? Because he loved you. (Eph 3:14-19)

Eph 5:3-7 Avoid sexual sin. Why? Because God brought you out of darkness. (Eph 2:1-8)

Eph 5:18 Do not get drunk. Why? Because the HS lives in you (Eph 2:22)

**Ephesians 6:1-9 Live in submission**

This continues the section begun in Ephesians 5:21.

1. 5:21 Submit to one another

2. 5:22-24 Wives, submit to husbands

3. 5:25-33 Husbands submit to the needs of your wives by loving them as Christ loves the Church.

4. 6:1-3 children to parents

5. 6:4 Parents submit to the needs of your children.

 Parents should treat their children in a way which benefits the children, not themselves.

6. 6:5-8 Slave to master (worker to boss)

 Submit to your boss, not just with obeying what you are commanded to do, but in order to benefit your boss.

7. 6:9 Master to slave (boss to worker)

 As a boss, you need to put the needs and desires of your employees above your own. Amazingly, leadership experts have come around to agreeing with this.

Why? 5:21 Because of your reverence for and submission to Christ.

Gordon Ferguson: Golden Rule Leadership

John Oakes: Golden Rule Membership.

Galatians 5:13-15 We use our freedom to make ourselves slaves of one another.

Eph 6:10-17

Be strong IN THE LORD

Q: Where do you find your strength? Really??????

Where does our strength come from?

v. 12 We are in a struggle, but what are you struggling against.

-your spouse is not the enemy

-your boss is not the enemy

-the government is not the enemy

-your Bible group leader is not the enemy

-your kids are not the enemy.

-your circumstances are not the enemy.

-even your enemy is not your enemy.

Our battle is a spiritual one.

The weapons you use depend on the battle you are fighting.

You do not bring a sword into a courtroom.

You do not bring a gun to a football game.

You do not bring a philosophy book to war.

For a spiritual war, here are the weapons you need:

1. The belt of truth.

2. The breastplate of righteousness.

3. Readiness of having the gospel message.

4. Shield of faith.

5. Helmet of salvation.

6. Sword of God—the Scriptures.

How strong are we as human beings? What makes you strong in human terms?

Nick Plum is pretty strong. Nick: are you prepared to take on Satan?

Jan Oakes is quite beautiful.

Rick Norris has a really great job.

Gus Longacre is really smart.

If we were all as smart an Nick, all as beautiful or handsome as Jan, all had as good a job and successful career as Rick Norris and all as smart as Gus Longacre, could we take the world for Christ and could we beat back Satan?

No!!!!!! So, why do we try to do exactly that.

Sammy Silipo

Now, let’s give Sammy the full armor of God and who is going to win the battle?

Let’s get a picture of how formidable a warrior each of us truly is.

If we wear the full armor of God, then he can use our intelligence, our money, our physical strength, our good looks can actually be used by God.

Truth: Do you have any idea what strength we gain from having the truth? We do not live in doubt. We have great confidence. Even if we lose a debate we are still right!

Righteousness: I think of Lot in 2 Peter 2:7 Lot, a righteous man. If you are in Christ, then you are a righteous person. No-one can level any charges against you. We cannot be blackmailed. We are truly and in fact innocent. What strength this gives us. A lot more than a million bucks.

The Gospel. The good news of salvation. We have the one thing every single person truly needs and wants. We are selling the winning super lotto ticket. This should make us VERY confident, even if people around us do not believe we have the winning ticket.

Our faith. This is the most awesome weapon ever devised. It can defeat armies,… Hebrews 11:32-38 Will you rely on your faith in God rather than on your own amazingness, which is really not all that amazing?

Faith can move mountains. Luke 17:6

Faith allowed Noah to build an ark, Abraham to walk out of Ur, Moses to walk out of Pharaoh’s palace, Joshua to march around Jericho.

Salvation. How much courage can we gain from the fact of our salvation. What can the world take from us? Illustration: From the play/movie Upside Down. “Don’t you dare even give a thought of saving me today. I am already saved and for that gift, there’s no price I won’t pay.”is

What is our salvation worth? Luke 9:25 What good is it for a man to gain the whole world and yet to lost his soul? Your salvation is worth more than every single thing in the entire world. What do you suppose that the entire world would sell for?

Hebrews 13:5-6 “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you. So we say with confidence, The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?”

The sword: the Word of God. This is our “offensive” weapon.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought and make it obedient to Christ.

(holding up my Bible) Do you have any concept of the power you hold in your hands right here? Folks, let’s start using our sword. Let’s learn how to wield it. Let us hone our skills in using our sword.

Brothers and Sisters and friends, let us stand firm!!!!!!!

Let us wear the armor of God!!!!!

Ephesians 6:18-20 Interesting. This is one more gift, but he leaves it for last. Prayer.

Do you have ANY CONCEPT of the power we hold in our hands. The power of prayer.

Paul: I want you to have a vision of what the gospel can and will do here in San Diego. If we will only pray and declare the gospel fearlessly, what can God do? How many doors can God open? How many can be saved?

Will you do me and God a favor? Will you pray for the harvest of souls?

If we wear the full armor and if we pray, I believe we will declare the truth fearlessly, and imagine what can happen.

Ephesians 6:21-24

As we finish Ephesians, let us think of all the amazing things we have in Christ.

We have every spiritual blessing 1:4

We have the Holy Spirit—a guarantee of our salvation 1:13-14

We have grace which frees us from obligation 2:8-10

We have an inheritance—We have been adopted