

Sermon Series: Why Do I Need the Church?

To be used with: We Stand Together in Spiritual Battle

Sermon Title Possibilities: Battling Together

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-20

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the small group study “*Why Do I Need the Church?*” this sermon encourages us to stand together in spiritual battle by enjoying the same connection, by embracing the same covering, by engaging the same combat, and by employing the same communion.

Introduction: Having just taught about the believer’s spiritual fullness, the apostle now moves to the believer’s spiritual fight. All Christians are faced with the allurements of the world, the arousals of our sinful flesh, and the attacks of Satan. We all fight the world, the flesh, and the devil. It is this last enemy that text equips us to deal with.

The devil is real, and he is busy trying to kill, steal, and destroy (John 10:10). The good news is God has given us everything we need to deal with and defeat the enemy. We have victory in Jesus (1 John 4:4; 5:4) and we are more than conquerors in Christ (Romans 8:37). To walk in victory over the enemy and his attacks, we must stand together in spiritual battle. **We Stand Together in Spiritual Battle by...**

1. Enjoying the Same Connection. (v. 10)

The NIV, ESV, KJV, and other translations opens this passage by saying “Be strong in the Lord.” This is the connection we must have “in the Lord” in order to be victorious in spiritual battle. The unsaved church member is under the woo of the devil, subscribes to the ways of the world, and succumbs to the wants of the flesh. He or she cannot help the saint in spiritual battle. You must be saved to do spiritual battle and the saints must stand together in spiritual battle.

Let’s make sure the people in our homes, in our churches, in our Sunday School classes, and in our small groups are saved and “in the Lord.” The first way we stand together in spiritual battle is by making sure we all are saved. **We Stand Together in Spiritual Battle by...**

2. Embracing the Same Covering. (v. 11a, 14-17)

The apostle exhorts us to “put on the full armor of God,” and to “take up the full armor of God.” Putting on refers to vesting in or dressing with. Taking up refers to applying to ourselves. This full armor speaks of divine weaponry for spiritual battle. Most is defensive: truth, righteousness, gospel, faith, and salvation (v.14-17a). Two are offensive: the Word of God and prayer (v.17b-20).

We must allow truth to hold us like a belt, righteousness to cover our hearts, the gospel to guide our feet, faith to shield us from the attacks of the enemy, and salvation to guide our minds. We must use the Word of God as a sword to answer the attacks, accusations, and assaults of the evil one—like Jesus did in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11). Furthermore, we must pray all kinds of prayers, all the time, for all saints (v.18-20). **We Stand Together in Spiritual Battle by...**

3. Engaging the Same Combat. (v. 11b, 12-13)

Paul says that we must stand against “the schemes” of the devil (v.11b), and that we wrestle or “struggle” against rulers, authorities, cosmic powers, evil, and spiritual forces (v.12-13). There is a war going on. This war is not against people or nations, or against gangs or guns, or the opioid crisis. This war is against the devil and his spiritual forces.

We must not live our Christian lives on cruise-control. We must engage in the spiritual battle by believing the truth of God’s Word, by walking in the righteousness of God’s Word, by sharing the good news of God’s love, by confiding in the truth of God’s promises, by declaring the truth of God’s precepts, by praying all kinds of prayer, praying at all times, and praying for all saints. **We Stand Together in Spiritual Battle by...**

4. Employing the Same Communion (v. 18-20)

Here Paul exhorts us to **pray with tenacity** (“Pray at all times”), to **pray with authority** (“in the Spirit”), to **pray with variety** (“with every prayer and request”), to **pray with inclusivity** (“intercession for all saints”), and to **pray with specificity** (Paul asks that they pray for him to preach the Word with boldness and clarity). If we continuously pray like this, we will stand together in spiritual battle

Conclusion: Spiritual victory comes through the saints standing together in spiritual battle. We stand together by enjoying the same connection, by embracing the same covering, by engaging the same combat, and by employing the same communion. A praying church and a Word-church is a strong and victorious church!

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