

**Stand Firm in Warfare:  
The Call to Battle – Gird Your Loins!  
Eph 6:14-20 (Part 2)**

**I. Introduction- Turn to Eph 6**

**A. Proposition: STAND FIRM in WARFARE**

1. The CALL to PREPARE (6:10-13)

a) Your orders: Clothe Yourself!

Eph 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God,

b) Your Objective: Stand firm

so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil

c) Your Enemy: Spiritual – Satan & his demons

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

d) Your Mission Statement: Resist and Stand firm

13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

2. The CALL to FIGHT (6:14-20)

a) Mandate (What, Command)

14 Stand firm therefore,

b) Method (How)

HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, 15 and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; 16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

### 3. The CALL to Battlefield Support

Eph 6:18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, 19 and *pray* on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in *proclaiming* it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

## II. The Call to Battle (6:14-20)

### A. The Mandate

14 Stand firm therefore,

1. In the Preparation Section (v.10-13) saw

Eph 6:11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ...13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist (literally: Stand against) in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

a) THREE TIMES in the preparation section we are told that we going to be called to “stand firm”

b) Guess What? Now are called to STAND FIRM! 😊

2. “Stand firm” = COMMAND

a) Also = DO it ONE TIME and STAY THERE!

b) Reminds me of seeing a baseball player walk up to the plate and grind his feet firmly into position – FIXED and NOT MOVING!

3. REMEMBER! This =KEY OUTCOME of the PASSAGE

a) All the strengthening / All the armor

b) SO THAT you STAND FIRM!

c) Every previous application = WALK! Now STAND!

d) = DEFENSIVE POSITION NOT OFFENSIVE! – HOLD YOUR GROUND

4. IMPORTANT – grammatical Structure
  - a) “[stand firm](#)” = COMMAND that DRIVES the REST of the SECTION down to v.20!
  - b) ALL of the Pieces of armor are described with participles – not commands
  - c) IOW – grammatically they DETAIL OUT HOW to STAND FIRM (= the METHOD)
5. There’s only one other command and it is in v.17 – “take the helmet of salvation and the sword”
  - a) It is there as part of the method of standing firm.
  - b) Soldiers would dress before battle with
    - (1)Girding up loins
    - (2)Putting on breastplate
    - (3)Shodding feet with sandals
    - (4)Putting shield on arm
  - c) Kinda like what you put on in the locker room!
  - d) BUT the helmet and sword only went into place when they saw the enemy coming and it was time to fight
6. So – STAND FIRM is our BATTLE COMMAND – we are to ACTIVELY GET SET INTO POSITION and HOLD IT!
7. How do we stand firm?

### ***B. The Method***

HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, [15](#) and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; [16](#) in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. [17](#) And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

## 1. The Girdle of Truth

### 14...HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH,

#### a) METAPHOR: Belt for tunic

- (1) Soldier wore a tunic – piece of cloth –  
Square with Holes for arms
- (2) Had to GATHER IT AROUND THE BODY
- (3) Used LEATHER BELT
- (4) BUT Belt had shoulder strap – front-to-back
- (5) Shoulder strap had sword holder!
  - (a) IMPORTANT – because girdle of truth and  
sword of the Spirit – the Word of God  
ARE RELATED!
  - (b) Also – Shoulder strap was where they  
attached battle metals
  - (c) (see people with them on their chest today)
- (6) And – depending on how long the tunic was  
below the belt – they'd tuck in the extra to  
“shorten skirt” for maneuverability

#### b) MEANING: preparedness

- (1) Common metaphor used in the Bible for  
PREPAREDNESS
- (2) Girding up clothes AND girding on sword!

Ex 12:11 ‘Now you shall eat it in this manner: with your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste—it is the LORD’S Passover.

1 Ki 18:46 Then the hand of the LORD was on Elijah, and he girded up his loins and outran Ahab to Jezreel.

Job 38:3 “Now gird up your loins like a man, And I will ask you, and you instruct Me!

Lk 12:35 “Be dressed (girded) in readiness, and *keep your lamps lit.* 36 “Be like men who are waiting for their

master when he returns from the wedding feast, so that they may immediately open *the door* to him when he comes and knocks. 37 “Blessed are those slaves whom the master will find on the alert when he comes; truly I say to you, that he will gird himself to serve, and have them recline *at the table*, and will come up and wait on them.

- c) Key – What do you gird with? A: TRUTH
- d) Debated meaning! Either
  - (1)CONTENT: Truth = Word of God
    - (a)Key argument AGAINST: Truth Covered in Sword of Truth
  - (2)ATTITUDE: Truthfulness
    - (a)= Attitude of Readiness, alertness
    - (b)Key argument AGAINST: All the other items are FROM GOD alone & truthfulness is not much of a weapon before Satan
  - (3)Difficulty – nothing in Grammar to help us
  - (4)No doubt – “girding” is our ACTION – have to participate and gird ourselves
- e) Safest ground is that it is an ATTITUDE of truthfulness, sincerity, honesty
  - (1)Why? ALL of our ATTITUDES are GROUNDED in the OBJECTIVE TRUTH of SCRIPTURE – the Word of GOD
  - (2)So, you don’t escape talking about your SOURCE of TRUTH to talk about YOUR ATTITUDE of TRUTHFULNESS!
- f) BUT – no matter how much I studied it, I always came back to this being OBJECTIVE truth because the belt has more to do with preparedness –
  - (1)IT ENABLES me to MOVE about FREELY – Truth ENABLES me to BE TRUTHFUL
  - (2)Ultimately – Truthfulness is grounded in TRUTH

- (a) Every piece of Armor needs the RIGHT ATTITUDES and ACTIONS to use in battle
  - (i) If the foundation is truth – let’s go there!
- (b) Also – the shoulder harness holds the Sword of Truth – together they are what we’d call a weapon system!
- (c) Also - You have to make truth PART of YOU – INTERNALIZED to UTILIZE
  - (i) The belt with it’s should strap IS PART of YOU – MOVES WITH YOU.
- g) In the end whichever side you pick -end up at TRUTH!
- h) Let’s talk about Truth!
  - (1) Who is truth? CHRIST! – the living word!
    - [Jn 1:14](#) And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.
    - [Jn 14:6](#) Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.
  - (2) Don’t we PUT on CHRIST and have Christ in us?
    - [Ga 3:27](#) For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.
    - [2 Co 11:10](#) ... the truth of Christ is in me, ...
    - [Col 1:27](#) ...Christ in you, the hope of glory.
  - (3) Christ had the Father give us the Holy Spirit – “in His name” – Ministry is to represent Christ to us (John 16:13)
    - [Jn 16:13](#) “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

(4) So –

(a) We've clothe ourselves with Christ – the living Word

(b) We've got the Spirit of Truth – our resident GUIDE of ALL TRUTH!

i) BUT – how do you GIRD yourself with truth?

(1) STUDY THE WORD of GOD!

[2 Ti 2:15](#) Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

[2 Ti 3:15](#) and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. [16](#) All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; [17](#) so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

(2) We love to quote 2 Peter 1:3 AS-IF God gives us everything by Osmosis! How often have you heard:

[2 Pe 1:3](#) ...His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, ...

(3) Do you remember the CONTEXT?

[2 Pe 1:2](#) Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; [3](#) seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

(a) IF you WANT everything pertaining to life and Godliness

(b) YOU FIND it in the "KNOWLEDGE of God and of Jesus our Lord"

(c) Where do find that KNOWLEDGE? BIBLE!

Jn 17:17 “Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

j) But even though Knowledge is in the Bible – is that all? Does it stop there as an academic exercise? NO!

**C. Since today is Communion I want to focus on a VERY SPECIAL ASPECT - THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT of TRUTH and Learning TRUTH**

### **III. You Learn TRUTH by LEARNING JESUS CHRIST**

20 But you did not learn Christ in this way, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus,

#### **A. 20 But you did not learn Christ in this way,**

1. 20 But you = CONTRAST!

a) Remember the Context! -

(1) Your WALK / DAILY CONDUCT / HOW you LIVE!

(2) My LIFE CANNOT LOOK LIKE THE WORLD!

(3) In CONTRAST – Paul SAYS the CHRISTIAN’S KNOWLEDGE is what? A: Knowledge of Christ

(a) You “learned Christ” (v.20)

(b) Truth is in Jesus (v.21)

(4) What is the Behavior that Follows? V.22-24!

(a) Lay aside the old self – “in reference to your former manner of life”

(i) Ties back to v.17-19

(ii) Specifically – PUT ALL OF THAT OFF!

(b) Be renewed in the spirit of your mind

(c) Put on the new self - “in the likeness of God – righteousness and Holiness in Truth!”

- (i) Ties back to V.20-21 – PUT ON THE PERSON of CHRIST
  - (ii) = Righteousness and Holiness!
- 2. Versus V.20-24 – The NEW WAY you are to LIVE
- 3. DON'T UNDERESTIMATE the MAGNITUDE of this word "BUT" here!
  - a) The WALK of the WORLD and OUR WALK are DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED
- 4. V.20-24 is an UPWARD progression
  - a) From KNOWING / LEARNING Christ to BECOMING Like God in Righteousness and Holiness!
- 5. [you did not learn Christ in this way](#)
  - a) Greek: "[You DID NOT IN THIS WAY...learn Christ](#)"
    - (1) This phrase "learn Christ" is by far my personal favorite phrase for understanding the Christian life
    - (2) It is ONLY used here in the whole BIBLE
    - (3) Bluntly Stated: the CHRISTIAN LIFE is LEARNING A PERSON!
    - (4) This reaches ALL the WAY back to when you first were saved and INCLUDES all the learning since!
      - (a) = LETTING yourself BE EQUIPPED and DOING SERVICE per Eph 4:12
      - (b) = FOCUSING on the PERSON of CHRIST! – AS YOUR SOURCE of TRUTH
    - (5) Christ IS the CONTENT of YOUR BELT –
    - (6) HOW do you get that CONTENT? THROUGH the BIBLE!
    - (7) BUT – you GO to LEARN TRUTH AS CHRIST – NOT to learn COMMANDMENTS, rules, etc.
  - b) Christianity is not feeling and experience apart from

## KNOWING Christ!

- (1) Christianity is PRIMARILY TRUTH about CHRIST APPLIED to LIVING – All to please Him and be like Him!
- (2) We are living in a time when the emphasis is not LEARNING Christ
  - (a) Emphasis = experience and feeling
  - (b) Today's Church is MORE ABOUT "LOVING CHRIST" and "LOVING GOD" than it is about LEARNING CHRIST and BEING LIKE Christ!
  - (c) Yet Paul's message here is CONSISTENT with the entirety of SCRIPTURE!
  - (d) = Knowledge, learning, understanding the PERSON of GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST!
- c) Paul goes on to give us more insight to "learning Christ" in V.21...

### ***B. 21 if indeed = "if as I assume to be the case" = SINCE (write that in Bible)***

1. Then TWO aspects of "learning Christ": "[heard Him](#)" / "[taught in Him](#)"
2. So – why does Paul use this fancy phrase "if indeed"?
  - a) A: Just IN CASE you ARE LIVING LIKE the WORLD!
  - b) IOW – IF you are LIVING like the WORLD,
    - (1) THEN You HAVE NOT "[learned Christ](#)" THROUGH "[hearing](#)" and "[being taught](#)"
    - (2) AND THE BLAME / RESPONSIBILITY is YOURS!
3. This is SOOOO IMPORTANT as we HEAD Into the APPLICATION SECTION that follows!
  - a) Pastor-Teachers can do the EQUIPPING of 4:12
  - b) BUT YOU have the RESPONSIBILITY of HEARING and BEING TAUGHT – the RECEIVING END

**C. *you have heard Him***

1. = BIBLICAL hearing
  - a) = hearing UNTO OBEDIENCE
  - b) = Listening, Learning, Understanding, Internalizing, DOING!
2. The time of this verb is YOUR SALVATION
3. When You HEARD ABOUT CHRIST – you CAME to SALVATION in OBEDIENCE to the Gospel.
4. IOW – You BEGAN LEARNING the PERSON Christ at Salvation! What did you Learn?
  - a) No other Name under heaven to be saved!
  - b) Want to get to God you HAVE to go through Him
  - c) This PERSON, Christ, has to BE YOUR SUBSTITUTE in the death you deserve!
  - d) This PERSON, Christ, offers you the FREE GIFT of ETERNAL LIFE – because He is LIFE and He defeated death!
5. We come THROUGH salvation
  - a) With a KNOWLEDGE of WHY we need Christ
  - b) With an ACCEPTANCE of HIS FREE PERSONAL gift to us to be our Substitute in Death
6. But – our “learning Him” doesn’t end there!

**D. *and have been taught in Him,***

1. Notice: NOT “taught BY Him” or “taught ABOUT Him”
2. = Taught IN FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM!
  - a) =In COMMUNION with Him
3. As I said before – this GOES BACK to your SALVATION and EVERYTHING SINCE!

**E. *just as truth is in Jesus,***

1. = Jesus is the embodiment of Truth!
2. Commentator Lincoln: “If you were taught in Him according to that which is truth in Jesus – if you

received into yourselves, when you listened to the teaching of the gospel, that which is true in your union with and life in Jesus”

3. = WHEN you LEARN the PERSON, You are LEARNING TRUTH
  - a) It's NOT JUST coming through / happening through HEAD learning
  - b) IT IS HAPPENING through Being IN HIM
    - (1) FOCUSING on LEARNING HIM while LEARNING TRUTH
4. Jesus, HIMSELF, Said this!
 

[Jn 14:6](#) Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

  - a) “I am...truth” / Truth IS ME! No TRUTH APART from ME!
  - b) Since I AM TRUTH, I GIVE TRUTH to those who know me!
5. “[truth](#)” is a major emphasis of Paul in Eph 4-6 – APPLICATION IS BASED on TRUTH!
  - a) See “[truth](#)” here in V.21
  - b) Plus
 

[Eph 4:24](#) and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of God* has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

[Eph 4:25](#) Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another.

[Eph 5:9](#) (for the fruit of the Light *consists* in all goodness and righteousness and truth),

[Eph 6:14](#) Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,
  - c) Very Important: HAVE the TRUTH that is IN JESUS!

6. CONTRAST STARTS Here AS “[truth](#)” is contrasted with “Deceit” v.22

[... just as truth is in Jesus, 22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit,](#)

- a) Your “new life” GROWS in TRUTH IN JESUS
- b) Your “old life” – “corrupted in accordance with deceit” – also described in 4:17-19

7. Notice ALSO – Paul uses a very unusual reference by ONLY saying “[Jesus](#)”

- a) Paul only refers to “Jesus” 10X in all of his writings!
- b) Why is this? A: focusing on the PERSON of Jesus
- c) Otherwise – WE ALWAYS use the TITLE “Christ” “Lord” “Savior” ALONG with “Jesus” – OUT of HONOR for WHAT HE HAS DONE and WHO HE IS
- d) BUT HERE – the FOCUS is on LEARNING TRUTH in FELLOWSHIP with HIM – the person of Jesus

#### ***F. So, HOW do you learn a PERSON?***

- 1. A: Hearing and being TAUGHT TRUTH “in Fellowship with Him”
- 2. An APT metaphor is MARRIAGE
  - a) In marriage you “learn a person”
  - b) You want to KNOW your spouse
    - (1) Know what they like/dislike
    - (2) Know what they believe and think
    - (3) Know HOW to please them / serve them / minister to them
  - c) You know everything
    - (1) From what kind of food they like/dislike
    - (2) TO what they value in life
    - (3) TO what they believe spiritually
    - (4) And on and on

(5) You know them so well, you can make one pointed comment and either HURT them deeply or HIT their sweet spot like no one else – because you know them.

d) Well – to stay within the metaphor - we're the BRIDE of CHRIST! – we'd better KNOW HIM! ☺

3. With Jesus – You do ALL That AND TRY to BE LIKE HIM!

4. Remember – you learn the PERSON, JESUS, while in COMMUNION / FELLOWSHIP with Him

a) Very intimate HEAD and PERSONAL LEARNING

b) ALWAYS resulting in GIVING UP the life of the WORLD and being Like Him.

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

***A. I leave you with a Question:***

***B. IS Christianity a PERSON to you?***

***C. Is your FOCUS MORE than JUST the COMMANDS of the BIBLE?***

***D. Do you FOCUS on BEING LIKE HIM, PLEASING HIM, KNOWING HIM?***

***E. As I said from Paul's letter to the Corinthians – THE ONLY GROWTH that OCCURS in your CHRISTIAN WALK – OCCURS when you FOCUS on CHRIST!***

***F. Take that to PRAYER and STUDY this week and MAKE SURE you are "LEARNING CHRIST" and NOTHING LESS!***