

**Stand Firm in Warfare:  
The Call to Battle – Shod Your Feet!  
Eph 6:14-20 (Part 4)**

**I. Introduction- Today – SHODDING OUR FEET!**

***A. I don't ever want to know how much money I've spent on shoes for myself and my family!***

***B. First – we're not the greatest shoe collectors ever – that honor goes to Imelda Marcos!***

1. She was Ferdinand Marcos wife and when he was exiled and removed from office they found over 3000 pairs of shoes belonging to his wife – the first lady!

***C. BUT – I've had shoes for every sport and activity!***

1. High School: running shoes, football shoes, wrestling shoes, basketball shoes!
2. Since then:
  - a) Bicycling shoes – with cleats to attach to pedals
  - b) More running shoes! Probably AT LEAST one pair every year of my adult life!
  - c) Motorcycle racing boots
    - (1) Soft leather boots for my road racing
    - (2) Heavy / thick / protective / HIGH boots for dirt bike racing
  - d) Hiking boots that protect the ankles from twisting
  - e) Hunting boots that are camouflaged

***D. Then came the kids***

1. I could be a retired wealthy person IF I could get back all the money I've spent on RUNNING shoes for our family!
2. We have BOXES and BOXES of old running shoes!

3. and now – Katie is getting into customized ORTHODICS to go into her expensive running shoes!

### ***E. What's the point about shoes?***

1. SHOES have a VITAL ROLE in EVERY ACTIVITY
2. HAVING a SOLID FOOTING is CRITICAL for the TASK at HAND!
3. SO – no surprise
  - a) When talking about the ARMOR of GOD
  - b) When talking about being a SOLDIER in SPIRITUAL WARFARE
  - c) AND talking about our primary duty of STANDING FIRM
  - d) That we will have to talk about WHAT we PUT on OUR FEET!
  - e) Not just ANY PAIR of FOOTWEAR will DO!
4. Sadly – from what I know of Imelda Marcos...

### ***F. Review: STAND FIRM in WARFARE***

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

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

### ***A. The Mandate***

#### 14 Stand firm therefore,

1. In the Preparation Section (v.10-13) saw
  - a) THREE TIMES in the preparation section we are told that we going to be called to “[stand firm](#)”
2. “[Stand firm](#)” = COMMAND -DO it ONE TIME - STAY THERE!
  - a) All the strengthening / All the armor SO THAT you STAND FIRM!
  - b) = DEFENSIVE POSITION NOT OFFENSIVE! – HOLD YOUR GROUND

3. stand firm= COMMAND DRIVES SECTION to v.20!
  - a) ALL of the Pieces of armor are described with participles – not commands
  - b) IOW – grammatically they DETAIL OUT HOW to STAND FIRM (= the METHOD)

### ***B. The Method (How we stand firm)***

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.

### **III. 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!
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**

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.

**C. Key – What do you gird with? A: TRUTH**

1. = CONTENT: Truth = Word of God
2. Who is truth? CHRIST! – the living word!

[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.

**D. 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.

**E. YOU FIND TRUTH in the “KNOWLEDGE of God and of Jesus our Lord”**

[Eph 4:20](#) 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,

1. You LEARN to LEARN a person – Jesus Christ
2. Truth is all for the TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST to KNOW CHRIST and become LIKE HIM

**IV. The Breastplate of Righteousness**

and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,

**A. “and having put on”**

1. = another participle that GIVES US ANOTHER DETAIL of WHAT the COMMAND to STAND FIRM MEANS!
2. Middle voice = you participate in the action of putting it on yourself!

**B. “the breastplate of righteous”****C. METAPHOR = BODY ARMOR! – DEFENSIVE armor!**

1. Cloth or Leather “shirt”
  - a) COVERED with
    - (1) Slices of hoofs of animals OR
    - (2) Chain mail OR
2. Later: molded heavy Leather or metal plating

3. KEY – what did it protect?
  - a) Purpose to STOP the enemy's weapons from getting to your body's vital organs!
  - b) HEART
  - c) ORGANS of the STOMACH region!
  - d) Both of these have GREAT THEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE to the Jewish mind!

#### **D. MEANING = PROTECT MIND and EMOTIONS with RIGHTEOUS LIVING**

1. Heart = mind = thinking
 

[Mt 9:4](#) And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, “Why are you thinking evil in your hearts?”

[Lk 9:47](#) But Jesus, knowing what they were thinking in their heart, ...

  - a) So = PROTECT YOUR THINKING!
2. Stomach area = Bowels = Feelings and emotions
 

[Col 3:12](#) ...put on ...compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

  - a) Col 3:12 = put BOWELS of COMPASSION
  - b) Don't you FEEL your EMOTIONS in your GUT? = GUT-FEELING
  - c) = PROTECT your FEELINGS and EMOTIONS too
3. So – Breastplate protects THINKING and EMOTIONS!

#### **E. “righteousness”**

1. Is it the Righteousness GIVEN to US at Salvation (IMPUTED RIGHTEOUS)
2. or our RIGHTEOUS Living / Practical RIGHTEOUSNESS? A: BOTH

#### **F. Christ's Righteousness GIVEN to US!**

1. When you become a Christian and reach out in faith to God through Christ, the righteousness of Christ is imputed to you at that moment:

- a) God clothes you in the righteousness of Christ.
- b) He puts a canopy of the absolute holiness of Jesus Christ over you.
- c) From that moment throughout eternity, whenever God looks at you, He sees the righteousness of Jesus Christ.
- d) That is called *imputed righteousness* by the theologians
  - (1) Impute = “to credit to”
  - (2) AND At salvation we are IMPUTED His Righteousness.
- e) He died there for us, and in our place. He now gives us His righteousness in exchange for ours.  
[1 Cor 1:30](#) “But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption.”
- f) In 2 Corinthians 5:21 we read,  
“He made him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in him.”

2. Imputed Righteousness IS the ABSOLUTE NECESSARY FOUNDATION for living righteously!
3. Putting on the BREASTPLATE of RIGHTEOUS =
  - a) FIRST – HAVING the RIGHTEOUSNESS of Christ IMPUTED to you
  - b) Plus OUR RIGHTEOUS LIVING!

### **G. PRACTICAL Righteousness / Righteous Living!**

1. Just because you ARE a CHRISTIAN
  - a) Doesn’t mean you AUTOMATICALLY LIVE like Christ!
  - b) IOW – You can be a CHRISTIAN and NOT put the BREASTPLATE ON – You are UNPROTECTED even though you have it to WEAR!
  - c) LIVE RIGHTEOUSLY, NOT SINFULLY!

Ro 6:11 Even so (i.e. THEREFORE) consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, 13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. (LIVE RIGHTEOUSLY so that GOD can USE YOU!).

d) POINT: As a CHRISTIAN – you CAN and SHOULD now OBEY GOD = Live righteously

2. Again – ALL of this is TO SHOW that RIGHTEOUS HOLY LIVING MUST follow Salvation to PUT on the BREASTPLATE of righteousness!

a) You have NO defense against Satan if SIN DOMINATES your LIFE!

b) BUT – Satan CANNOT HURT your VITAL organs – MIND and EMOTIONS WHEN you are OBEYING GOD!

**H. KEY: the BREASTPLATE is ON ONLY when WE are LIVING a RIGHTEOUS LIFE!**

1. BREASTPLATE = RIGHTEOUS, HOLY LIVING!

2. BREASTPLATE OFF

a) = worldly living

b) = thoughts and emotions NOT on THINGS ABOVE (Col 3:1) – not on the EXCELLENCIES of God and SCRIPTURE (Phil 4:8)

## **V. Feet shod with Gospel of Peace**

15 and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;

**A. METAPHOR: Roman Soldier's Sandals**

1. Sole of several layers of leather (3/4 inch thick)

2. Bottom had spikes (hobnails)

3. Long leather straps wrapped the feet and lower legs – hold sandals on feet
4. NOTE: NOT running sandals!
5. = DIGGING IN STANDING FIRM SANDALS
6. Like ALL shoes – made for a purpose!
  - a) Running shoes today – weigh ounces and cannot feel their weight
  - b) Soldiers boots – heavy / high fighting boots! - see them marching, hiking, fighting in heavy protective boots with soles that look like mud and snow tires! – TRACTION!

### **B. MEANING:**

1. 15 and having shod YOUR FEET
  - a) Another participle – continue to DETAIL OUT THE MEANING OF STANDING FIRM (v.14)
  - b) Middle voice – We participate in the Shodding! (love that word)
  - c) We participate in putting on / using the sandals in our DEFENSIVE BATTLE against SATAN – in spiritual warfare!
2. WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;
  - a) “preparation” = READINESS / MADE READY / EQUIPPED
    - (1)=Feet MADE READY /EQUIPPED with the GOSPEL of PEACE
  - b) “Gospel of Peace” = Good news of salvation that brings peace with God!
3. So, What does this mean? - to have your feet made ready / equipped with the Gospel of Peace?
4. It doesn't mean that we're supposed to go off and preach the gospel to people!
  - a) Many commentators say that!
  - b) They go over to Rom 10:15 that MORE DIRECTLY

quotes Is 52:7

[Ro 10:15](#) How will they preach unless they are sent?  
Just as it is written, “HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF  
THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!”

c) And they say – let Scripture interpret Scripture!

(1) BTW – I always cringe when I hear that  
because it really means

(2) “I’m going to leave this context and go  
somewhere else to get the meaning!”

(3) ALWAYS stay in CONTEXT!

d) What’s our context? STANDING FIRM AGAINST  
SATAN! Spiritual WARFARE!

e) Context is NOT EVANGELISM!

5. What does it mean?

a) YOU STAND FIRM KNOWING that GOD is NOW  
ON YOUR SIDE!

b) Through SALVATION – accepting the GOSPEL

c) You are AT PEACE with GOD –

(1) He’s on your side

(2) He’s fighting for you

d) SO, you CONFIDENTLY STAND FIRM and Don’t  
GIVE GROUND to SATAN!

e) It’s that SIMPLE – ONCE

(1) You HAVE PEACE with GOD

(2) You UNDERSTAND and CONTEMPLATE  
what that REALLY MEANS!

f) To be honest – IF you don’t HAVE PEACE with  
GOD – You’ve got a FAR MORE SERIOUS WAR on  
your HANDS than the war with Satan! Right?

(1) Fear Him who has the power to cast you into  
hell!

g) Hoehner: “Therefore, rather than preach the gospel  
of peace, believers are ready or prepared to stand

against the onslaughts of the evil forces because they are firmly grounded in the gospel of peace. It is the believers' surefootedness...that gives them the readiness to stand against the devil and his angelic hosts."

## **VI. PEACE with GOD**

**A. Let's look now about our PEACE with GOD – this alone MOTIVATES us to STAND FIRM in our FEET SHOD with the Gospel of PEACE!**

### **B. First – Turn to Eph 2:11!**

#### **1. Spiritually Separated FROM GOD and the Jews (remember Ephesians is about UNITY!)**

Ephesians 2:11 Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands— 12 remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

##### **a) remember that you were at that time**

b) Without Christ: **Separate from Christ**

c) Without Nation: **Excluded from the commonwealth of Israel**

d) Without Covenant: **Strangers to the covenants of promise**

e) Without Hope: **Having no hope**

f) Without God: **Without God in the World**

#### **2. IOW – YOU HAD NO PEACE with the JEWS NOR WITH GOD!**

#### **3. The Pronouncement of Unity and Peace (v.13)**

Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

a) = SUMMARY STATEMENT for EVERYTHING to v.22

#### 4. The Peace of Unity (v.14-18)

##### a) The Purchase of Peace (v.14-16)

Ephesians 2:14 For He Himself is our peace,  
(= summary statement)

UNITY: who made both *groups into one* and (inasmuch as/ in that He) broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, 15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, *which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances,*

so that (PEACE)

(a) (between Jew and Gentile) in Himself He might make the two into one new man, *thus establishing peace,*

(b) (between Jew / Gentile AND GOD) 16 and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.

(1) For He Himself is our peace,

(a) Right away – NEED TO DEFINE PEACE!

(b) TWO KINDS of PEACE!

(i) LEGAL PEACE – you're at war and you "make peace"

(ii) Feeling of Peace – the when you FEEL at peace

(2) Guess which one here? LEGAL PEACE – PEACE with GOD and other Christians

(a) To have peace WITH GOD, you have to have Christ

(b) Have to be IN CHRIST!

(c) What a STATEMENT – HE IS OUR PEACE with GOD!

(d) Every time God looks at you He SEES HIS SON as the REASON HE IS AT PEACE WITH YOU!

- b) V.14b-15 TALKS PEACE between Jew and Gentile  
 (1) THEN v.16 talks about PEACE with GOD!  
 (2) Why the reverse order? A: context of the book wrt UNITY.  
 (3) Let's focus on the PEACE we have with God!

### 5. Peace between Men and God! (v.16)

16 and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.

- a) So – what is “reconcile” / reconciliation?  
 (1) RESTORATION of a RELATIONSHIP between God and man  
 (2) = COMPLETED – DONE!  
 (3) A relationship that had become HOSTILE that is now CLOSE / REUNITED / BACK TOGETHER AGAIN  
 (4) ALL Done BY GOD – FROM ABOVE  
 (5) ALL DONE COMPLETELY  
 (a) NO HOSTILITY LEFT  
 (b) ONLY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP!  
 (6) That's quite a word  
 (7) MORE THAN THAT – quite a concept!  
 (8) All conceived, carried out by God!
- b) “them both in one body to God”  
 (1) = ONE NEW MAN of v.15  
 (2) = the Church!  
 (3) = By MAKING us one new man IN HIM, He RECONCILED US TO GOD!
- c) “through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.” = by MEANS of the CROSS, HIS DEATH PUT to DEATH the HOSTILITY (enmity) BETWEEN GOD AND US.

d) Listen to Colossians 1 say the same thing!

Colossians 1:19 For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, 20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, *I say*, whether things on earth or things in heaven. 21 And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, *engaged* in evil deeds, 22 yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—

- (1) You're unsaved state = V.21 alienated, hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds.
- (2) God's action = V.22 "He has now reconciled you"
- (3) How?
  - (a) V.22 through death
- (4) V.20 having made peace through the blood of His cross!

## 6. The Preaching of Peace (v.17)

Ephesians 2:17 AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR; 18 for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

- a) Very Important Progression here in this section!
  - (1) v.14 "He Himself is our peace" = JC IS PEACE
  - (2) v.15 thus establishing peace = JC MADE PEACE!
  - (3) v.17 here – "He came and preached Peace" = JC PREACHED PEACE!
  - (4) why this progression?
- b) SUM UP ALL THAT CHRIST did with word "PEACE"!
- c) God's message has always been PEACE!

- d) [“He came and preached peace”](#) =
- (1) Jesus Christ CAME and STARTED msg of PEACE
  - (2) BUT that MESSAGE continued through APOSTLES and onto us SO THAT ALL (Jew and Gentile) would know the peace that CHRIST made for all men – WITH GOD!
- e) [18 for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.](#)
- (1) [“through Him”](#) - where in this book don't we see “in Christ” “in Him” “through Him” – It's ALL ABOUT JESUS CHRIST!
  - (2) [“we both”](#) = Jew and Gentile
  - (3) [“have our access”](#) =
    - (a) “access” = word for introducing someone to the king
      - (i) = official position in the royal courts
    - (b) Jesus Christ is our “introducer” to God!
    - (c) Result = Access!
      - (i) First PEACE (v.1) THEN ACCESS! (v.2)
    - (d) AND what happens when Christ dies?
      - (i) The VEIL is TORN
      - (ii) MEN have ACCESS to GOD!
      - (iii) BECAUSE WE have PEACE
      - (iv) We can BOLDLY APPROACH the THRONE of GRACE! (Heb 4:16)
    - (e) And how do we access the Father? Look at v.18...
  - (4) [in one Spirit to the Father](#)
    - (a) Answer: through the Holy Spirit!
    - (b) When Jesus left this earth, He sent the Holy Spirit

(c) John 16:13-14 KEY: Holy Spirit's Ministry =  
DO CHRIST'S WILL IN THIS WORLD!

f) So, what is Paul telling us here?

(1) God is THE GOD of PEACE!

(a) He IS Peace

(b) He MADE Peace through Christ

(2) SO – In Ephesians 6:15 PAUL can tell us to  
REMEMBER THIS PEACE and STAND  
FIRM KNOWING that GOD is ON YOUR  
SIDE!

### **C. Now – turn to Romans 5!**

Ro 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,...

1. AGAIN - LEGAL PEACE – you WERE at war and you've "made peace" WITH GOD!
2. You're no longer at war with God!
3. Do you want to see that war? Look down to v.6!
4. TWO THREADS of THOUGHT HERE from v.6-1
  - a) First – the state of MAN apart from GOD –
  - b) Second – what God did to make peace!
5. V.6-10 looking at the state of man!

6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die (implies we are UNRIGHTEOUS). 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified (we: unjustified) by His blood, we shall be saved (we: unsaved) from the wrath (we: headed for wrath) *of God* through Him. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled (we: unreconciled) to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

- a) Get the picture of man?
- b) Helpless
- c) Ungodly
- d) Unrighteous
- e) Sinners
- f) Unjustified
- g) Unsaved
- h) Headed to wrath
- i) Enemies (v.10)

(a)Unreconciled!

6. Now go back through v.6-10 and see what God has done for us to MAKE PEACE!

6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

#### ***D. What is Paul saying?***

1. SIN put man at war with God
2. SIN created an UNCROSSABLE CHASM between man and God
3. How did God CROSS that CHASM to make PEACE?
4. A: THE CROSS!
5. The CROSS is the BRIDGE!
6. Those who ACCEPT CHRIST'S WORK on the CROSS NOW HAVE PEACE with GOD!

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**VII. CONCLUSION**

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**A. ARE you CONVINCED that YOU HAVE PEACE with GOD? I HOPE SO!**

**B. Do you understand that GOD is NOW ON YOUR SIDE!**

**C. Do you have any DOUBT about who is stronger – GOD or SATAN?**

**D. Remember – Greater is He that is in you than is in the world!**

**E. Remember – Satan is ALREADY a defeated FOE!**

1. Defeated by CHRIST already!
2. Christ – WHO IS OUR PEACE with GOD!

**F. Paul- REMEMBER this PEACE / ACT on THIS PEACE**

1. STAND FIRM and DON'T COMPRISE in this battle
2. God is ON YOUR SIDE and you WILL BE VICTORIOUS
3. BECAUSE HE is ALREADY VICTORIOUS!