

Summary: This war only has two sides

1. the Devil
2. God and his people.

How did God fight this war for the people who were against Him? (Look back at Ephesians 2:1–5 if you have time.)

Whose side are you on? Whose side do you want to be on?

Do you know how to get on to God's side?

1. Wives

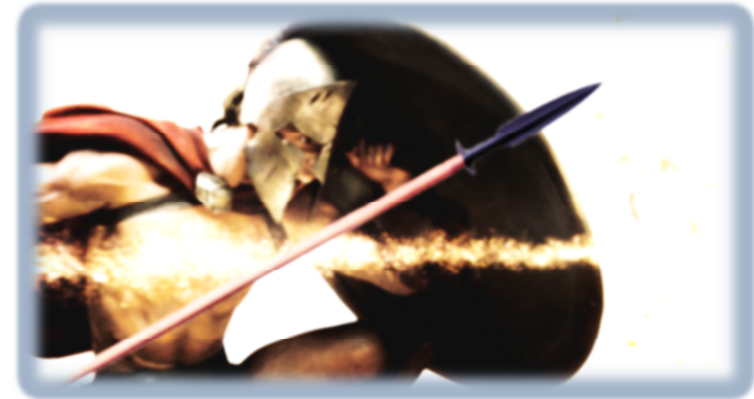
2. Husbands

3. Getting Practical

4. Some advice

Ephesians study 7

Prepare for Battle!



Discuss

Would you expect life to ...

... when you started studying at Monash

... when you apply for a job after graduating

... when you got / if you get married

... when you gave / if you give your life to Jesus

get easier	stay the same	get harder

Read Ephesians 5:21–6:9.

^{5:21}Yield to obey each other as you would to Christ.

²²Wives, yield to your husbands, as you do to the Lord, ²³because the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ is the head of the church. And he is the Saviour of the body, which is the church.

²⁴As the church yields to Christ, so you wives should yield to your husbands in everything.

²⁵Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it ²⁶to make it belong to God. Christ used the word to make the church clean by washing it with water. ²⁷He died so that he could give the church to himself like a bride in all her beauty. He died so that the church could be pure and without fault, with no evil or sin or any other wrong thing in it. ²⁸In the same way,

husbands should love their wives as they love their own bodies. The man who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ No one ever hates his own body, but feeds and takes care of it. And that is what Christ does for the church, ³⁰ because we are parts of his body. ³¹ The Scripture says, "So a man will leave his father and mother and be united with his wife, and the two will become one body." ³² That secret is very important—I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ But each one of you must love his wife as he loves himself, and a wife must respect her husband.

^{6:1} Children, obey your parents as the Lord wants, because this is the right thing to do. ² The command says, "Honour your father and mother." This is the first command that has a promise with it— ³ "Then everything will be well with you, and you will have a long life on the earth."

⁴ Fathers, do not make your children angry, but raise them with the training and teaching of the Lord.

⁵ Slaves, obey your masters here on earth with fear and respect and from a sincere heart, just as you obey Christ. ⁶ You must do this not only while they are watching you, to please them. With all your heart you must do what God wants as people who are obeying Christ. ⁷ Do your work with enthusiasm. Work as if you were serving the Lord, not as if you were serving only men and women. ⁸ Remember that the Lord will give a reward to everyone, slave or free, for doing good.

⁹ Masters, in the same way, be good to your slaves. Do not threaten them. Remember that the One who is your Master and their Master is in heaven, and he treats everyone alike.

Because there is not enough time to go through all the examples we will just look at the slave and master relationship. (6:5–9)

What did Paul ask the slaves to do? Why?

What did Paul ask the Masters to do? Why?

Do you think this is practical? If everybody behaved like this, how do you think it will change society?

Read Ephesians 6:10–20.

^{6:10} Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his great power. ¹¹ Put on the full armour of God so that you can fight against the devil's evil tricks. ¹² Our fight is not against people on earth but against the rulers and authorities and the powers of this world's darkness, against the spiritual powers of

evil in the heavenly world. ¹³ That is why you need to put on God's full armour. Then on the day of evil you will be able to stand strong. And when you have finished the whole fight, you will still be standing. ¹⁴ So stand strong, with the belt of truth tied around your waist and the protection of right living on your chest. ¹⁵ On your feet wear the Good News of peace to help you stand strong. ¹⁶ And also use the shield of faith with which you can stop all the burning arrows of the Evil One. ¹⁷ Accept God's salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times with all kinds of prayers, asking for everything you need. To do this you must always be ready and never give up. Always pray for all God's people.

¹⁹ Also pray for me that when I speak, God will give me words so that I can tell the secret of the Good News without fear. ²⁰ I have been sent to preach this Good News, and I am doing that now, here in prison. Pray that when I preach the Good News I will speak without fear, as I should.

New words and ideas

armour of God – the armour that comes from God

heavenly world –the unseen spiritual world

Paul uses the language of wars and battles to describe the Christian's life. Who are the two opposing sides in this war?

What kind of equipment did God give his people to fight this war? What do they symbolise?

belt of _____

breastplate of _____

feet fitted with _____

shield of _____

helmet of _____

sword of _____ = _____

What does Paul mean when he says to put on these things?