

The Church's War – Ephesians 6:10-13

6:10 Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by his vast strength. 11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens. 13 For this reason take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand.

- 1) War is confusing, and the church has fallen victim to that “fog”. What are some the ways we have the past or present play out different understandings of the warfare to which we are called?**

Paul helps cut through the confusion by further defining what we stand against. Our warfare is not a human conflict, rather it is to resist the spiritual forces and tactics of Satan. Knowing his character and goals helps us to better understand why he would be so hell-bent on attacking the church, and what those might look like.

- 2) What do we know from scripture about who Satan is and what he is about?**
- 3) Why can we learn from the ways he attacks Job and Jesus?**

Satan is jealous of God's glory and his attacks are always designed to steal or undermine it. This means his primary target is going to be God's redemptive plan, which displays His glory like nothing else does.

- 4) Why does this make the church a priority target for Satan's schemes? How does this help bring clarity to the identity and mission of the church?**
- 5) How should we relate to who don't know Christ in light of all this?**
- 6) As a local church, how do we walk this out? How do we practically stand against and resist these schemes?**

Prayer for the church and each other.

- Pray for our church – that the Lord would strengthen us so that we can stand as we have been talking about.
- What burdens can we bear with you?
- Do you have sin you need to confess?
- In what ways have you seen grace that we can be thankful for?