



## MILITARY

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We're in a series on the Church, titled *Isn't She Lovely*. Paul's letter to the Ephesians talks about the Church with the same metaphors we've discussed in this series.

The Church has real enemies. The most powerful are in the Unseen Realm (Ephesians 6:11b-12).

Paul charges us to put on the full armor of God and take a stand. This armor is God's mighty power. (Ephesians 6:10-11). God's mighty power is so powerful it raised Jesus from the dead. And it took dead "zombies" and made them alive in Christ and saved them from sin (Ephesians 1:18-2:9).

In light of our real enemies and God's mighty power, Paul charges us to put on the panoply, the complete armor, of God (Ephesians 6:13-17).

**BIG ACTION:** Put on the full armor of God, his mighty power, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground.

Many misunderstand this passage. Paul is not telling us to put on this armor as an individual and go fight evil by ourselves. Instead, he is telling us all to put on the armor and stand together.

This is the armor that Jesus wore when he saved the world (Isaiah 59 and 53).

We aren't strong enough to put on Christ's armor. So each of us must put off our old "zombie" ways, and put on Christ when we put on the New Self that God has created each of us to be (Ephesians 4:17-24).

### Final Reflections:

*Peroratio:* The parts of the armor are different facets of the power of Christ.

Preparation: Make your shield, and other parts of the armor better, for you and your family.

Prayer: Pray, especially for your pastors (Ephesians 6:18-20).

Ask yourself: "What aspects of this armor fit me well now? Which straps do I need to tighten?"



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