

# Fight the Good Fight

June 20, 2021 - Worship on the Lawn Summer Series - part 3 of 4

*“Fight the good fight for the true faith. Hold tightly to the eternal life to which God has called you, which you have declared so well before many witnesses.”*

**1 Timothy 6:12**

Teaching Point: “The Good News of Jesus brings people together.”

Refer to Ephesians 2 & 3.

## We all have the same history of division.

- We came from a long line of people who wanted to;
  - Make something of their life, and
  - To pass that life on to the generations to come.
- We have the same tendency as the rest of humanity to do things the wrong things or to do them the wrong way.
- We often defer to “fighting” for our idea of “right” rather than find a common ground on which we can live together (God’s desire).

Ephesians 2:3 ERV

*“In the past all of us lived like that, trying to please our sinful selves. We did all the things our bodies and minds wanted. Like everyone else in the world, we deserved to suffer God’s anger just because of the way we were.”*

But God...

Ephesians 2:4-5

*“...gave us new life together with Christ.”*

# Fight the Good Fight

Now we share common ground to live together.

---

We can live and share a fuller and more rich life together.

*“now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility...”* (Ephesians 2:13 ESV)

We are His servants – together!

*“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”* (Ephesians 2:10 ESV)

We, together, have access to God – the Father.

*“through [Jesus] we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.* (Ephesians 2:18 ESV)

We, together, are His “Holy Temple” – The Body of Christ on earth!

*“you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,<sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,<sup>21</sup> in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.”* (Ephesians 2:19-21 ESV)

God gave His church, the Body of Christ, a unified purpose.

---

<sup>10</sup> *“His purpose was that all the rulers and powers in the heavenly places will now know the many different ways he shows his wisdom. They will know this because of the church.”* (Ephesians 3:10 ESV).

Paul shares a prayer for to allow this purpose to be fully experienced.

Ephesians 3:14-19 ESV

<sup>14</sup> *So I bow in prayer before the Father.* <sup>15</sup> *Every family in heaven and on earth gets its true name from him.*

The bestowing of a name means the granting of power and authority.

# Fight the Good Fight

<sup>16</sup> I ask the Father with his great glory

- *to give you the power to be strong in your spirits.* He will give you that strength through his Spirit.
- <sup>17</sup> I pray *that Christ will live in your hearts because of your faith.*
- I pray *that your life will be strong in love and be built on love.*
- <sup>18</sup> And I pray *that you and all God's holy people will have the power to understand the greatness of Christ's love—how wide, how long, how high, and how deep that love is.* <sup>19</sup> Christ's love is greater than anyone can ever know, but I pray that you will be able to know that love.

*Then you can be filled with everything God has for you.*

We cannot do this alone!

Jesus told His disciples – “I will be with you, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20)

Jesus is with US!

We need Jesus, and we need His people with us!

Paul told the church in Philippi:

*“In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup> being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”* (Philippians 1:4-6 NIV)