



REFLECT

1. How did this week's sermon expand your understanding of spiritual warfare?
2. What questions do you still have about spiritual warfare?

ENCOUNTER

When we think about spiritual warfare, we must first understand that the battle is ultimately between God and Satan. The Church is not a faction in the war. Instead, the Church is what Satan attacks in his attempt to thwart God's mission. The Church is also the weapon God uses to liberate prisoners of war (unbelievers) from Satan's strongholds.

God's mission is to build his Church by liberating the lost from the bondage of sin and death. Satan's mission is to keep the lost bound. And he does so by trying to divide us. The book of Ephesians addresses this tension. Because we have unity with Christ, we should pursue unity with one another. Examine the ways Satan seeks to divide the Church in Ephesians 4:11-32.

3. God gave leaders to the Church who could equip the members for ministry. The end of their efforts is, in verse 13, unity in the faith. According to verses 14-16, what is the outcome of unity in the church?
4. According to verses 20-24, how is unity achieved?
5. In verses 25-32, what vices destroy unity in the church?

TRANSFORM

Each of the vices mentioned in verses 25-32 have to do with our words. Elsewhere, Jesus says that our speech (good or evil) comes out of the overflow of our hearts. The way we talk is a reflection of what we treasure.

6. In order to promote unity within our church, what should we treasure as a growth group? How should that impact what we do together?
7. How can we value those treasures practically when we meet as a growth group?

PRAYER REQUESTS

8. With spiritual warfare as the context, pray for our church using Ephesians 6:10-20 as a guide.

"Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord, urge you to walk worthy of the calling you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

~ Ephesians 4:1-3 ~