

Christ's New Community: It Has an Enemy

Where we've been

God has made known his purpose for our salvation, 1:12, 3:11

God has shown us the riches of his salvation, 1

God has put us into a new community, 2:14-22

God has given us wonderful instruction for growing up and getting along in the church and in our homes, 4:1-6:9

But there is an enemy who opposes all of this.

He wants us to be confused about the purpose of salvation

He wants us to focus on the here and now, not the riches we have in the heavenlies

He wants God's community divided and splintered over matters of preference, race, age, other non-essentials

He wants our churches to be places of division, aimlessness and purposelessness. He wants our homes to be places of strife, disagreement, and discord.

God wants you to have confidence against your enemy.

You must believe he exists and intends to harm God's people and program.

You must understand your responsibilities with reference to him.

Be strong in the Lord—depend upon God, 6:10

Fully depend upon God's awesome enabling power for his children.

You have responsibilities

Fulfill your responsibilities, 6:11-20

Put on the full armor, 6:11, 13

Full armor tells us that we have all we need, all the resources necessary to win.

Put on

What it is not

Some mystical prayer where I get a tingling feeling

Not some magical formula

Words from Eph 4:20

Take off

Renew the mind

Begin to think God's way

Put on

The first

Belt of truth buckled around your waist.

Probably a mixed metaphor

To "buckle something around your waist" means to be prepared for vigorous activity. Roll up your sleeves, or take your coat off

Belt of truth

Truth

God's truth

Eph 4:15

Know the truth

Practice the truth

Communicate the truth from the character of a transformed life

The truth

Is foundational to getting along and solving problems in the church or home

Satan is the father of lies, John 8:44, God is a god who delights in the truth and whose words are fully trustworthy.

4:15; 4:25ff

Not clamming up, not blowing up

Saying what is genuine, Eph 4:24

The second

The breastplate of righteousness

Breastplate protects vital organs

God wants you to be characterized by “righteous” living—living that is right when no one is watching.

This protects you

Are you different today than you were three months ago?

So what