

## **Christ's New Community: Dressed for Success**

*Ephesians 6:14-15*

### **The belt of truth**

#### **God's truth (God's Words)**

**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.*

If Christians are to win they must Know God's truth and be committed to integrity at any cost.

Do you read God's Word regularly?

### **The breastplate of righteousness**

*The breastplate protects vital organs*

*God wants you to be characterized by "righteous" living—living that is right even when no one is watching.*

*This protects you*

*Are you different today than you were three months ago?*

### **The right foot ware**

*What a Roman Solider wore on his feet was essential.*

The bottom of this sandal was like a football cleat.

*Allowed the soldier to "dig in"*

*Able to stand, to not be pushed around*

*Advance in terrain that was soggy or wet.*

## **What is the Gospel of Peace?**

Two items

*First*

God fixed what was wrong between him and me. God's wrath is averted; hostility and enmity have ceased; Romans 5:1, Vertical peace

*Second*

Since you have it with God, you ought to promote it among all kinds of people. Peace is a real weapon! Horizontal peace

See 2 Corinthians 10:4

*Like meekness, peace is part of the armor a believer puts on.*

Satan's weapon is often to sew discord (envy strife) through "strong convictions" over important but non-essential issues.

Music

Dress

Church projects

Which leads to wars and fights among you; James 3: 13-4:3

*A peace maker is not a compromiser of essential truth, but one who knows how to yield non-essential matters and help others to do so.*

Note: we are not to compromise truth, God's clear essential doctrine. But there is a time and place to be a peacemaker!

Philippians 2:3-5; 4:2

*Most church splits, coldness, distancing in the church isn't over essential doctrine. It is over a failure to "esteem others better than yourself!"*

**Warning: it is possible to love peace more than you love truth**

*The T-Rex in Toy story*

*Blessed are the peacemakers, not peace lovers*

## **So What?**

***When there is biblical unity in the body of Christ, it is because maturing believers are joyfully yielding important but non-essential issues to make it so.***

***“The true obstacle to unity is not the presence of legitimate differences of opinion but self-centeredness.”***

My priorities, my preferences, my comforts, or the kingdom of God advanced?

***How are you contributing to the unity of this body?***

***I am ready to make biblical peace!***