

Standing Firm in the Lord

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, May 30, 2021; Markes Wilson

Sermon Theme: Outfitted in the strength and the power of the whole armor of God, Paul calls and commands the church to be able to stand firm, together as the body of Christ, against the spiritual reality of evil forces and darkness.

I. The Command to Stand Firm – Read Ephesians 6:10-13

- A. In verse 10, Paul writes, “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.” Why do you think Paul begins this section by saying ‘finally’? What is the significance of the Paul’s use of the word “strength” in verses 10-13?
- B. Paul uses “stand firm” language three times in the first four verses. According to Paul, why do we need to stand firm in the Lord? What are some of the schemes of the Devil that you are prone to fall prey to throughout the week? What do you think it looks like to stand firm against those schemes?
- C. Read 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 and 1 Peter 5:8-10. How are these passages helpful in developing a greater understanding of the spiritual battle Paul has in mind? What are the reasons that we must stand firm? How does the reality that God is your strength in the battle encourage you as you wage war daily?

II. The Whole Armor of God – Read Ephesians 6:13-20

- A. What are some clues in the text and the whole book of Ephesians that help us understand that this is not individual armor, but corporate armor, provided by God to be worn by the church collectively?
- B. What are the six pieces of armor listed in verses 13-18? According to verse 13, what is the purpose of taking up this armor? Which piece of armor do you think the church is in most need of putting on? What can you do individually to promote the church putting on the Lord’s armor corporately?
- C. Can you think of a time when someone in the church held the “shield of faith” for you? How would you like to grow in joyfully holding the “shield of faith” for your brothers and sisters in this church? How can we cultivate this type of gospel-centered living within Christ Proclamation Church?
- D. How well do you handle the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God? How can the setting of this Life Group be helpful to you? What are other ways you can practice wielding your “sword”?

III. Our Call to Stand Firm – Application

- A. As you think about the reality that the battle is against the devil and spiritual forces of evil, how is that battle raging right in front of us? How is it raging in our own hearts on a daily basis?
- B. How do you know if you are ready to stand firm? How could you use prayer in this arena? How can you help your brothers and sisters to stand firm in their faith, being steadfast and immovable and always abounding in the work of the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)?
- C. As you think about the whole book of Ephesians, what do you think is your biggest take away?