

Identifying Our Enemy

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Preparing for Battle / Ephesians 6:12

In Eph 6:12, Paul expresses three sobering truths which help us pinpoint the reality of our enemy and the authenticity of our struggle against him:

1. Satan is Unquestionably Real
 2. Satan is Undoubtedly Restrained
 3. Satan is Undeniably Reprehensible
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Sermon Text

Ephesians 6:10–20 NASB95

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*. And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, and *pray* on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in *proclaiming* it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Introduction to our Text

Ephesians 2:2 NASB95

in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

Colossians 1:13-14 NASB95

For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Review

Ephesians 1:4 NASB95

just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.

Ephesians 1:22-23 NASB95

And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 4:19 NASB95

and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

Ephesians 4:25 NASB95

Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE *of you* WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another.

Ephesians 4:27 NASB95

and do not give the devil an opportunity.

1 Corinthians 3:1-3 NASB95

And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able *to receive it*. Indeed, even now you are not yet able,

for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?

Although the Corinthian believers were no longer natural, they were not spiritual (Fully controlled by the Holy Spirit). In fact, they were carnal

(controlled by the fallen flesh). Though all believers have the Holy Spirit they still battled the fallen flesh ~ John MacArthur

As the most dangerous winds may enter at little openings, so the devil never enters more dangerously than by little unobserved incidents, which seem to be nothing, yet insensibly open the heart to great temptation - John Wesley

(Review) Placing your Confidence in the Right Source (6:10)

Ephesians 6:10 NASB95

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

When Satan attacks us, you have two choices you can break, or you can get stronger. Getting stronger is not as easy as you think because it takes determination, and it takes focus and it's hard to focus with the distractions of life – Benny Hinn

(Review) Putting your Trust in the Required Resources (6:11)

Ephesians 6:11 NASB95

Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

(Review) Pinpointing the Reality of the Enemy (6:12)

Ephesians 6:12 NASB95

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

Proposition and Outline

In [Eph 6:12](#), Paul expresses three sobering truths which help us pinpoint the reality of our enemy and the authenticity of our struggle against him:

1. Satan is Unquestionably Real
2. Satan is Undoubtedly Restrained
3. Satan is Undeniably Reprehensible

Satan is Unquestionably Real!

[Ephesians 6:12](#) (NASB95)

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

He is a spiritual creature

[Ephesians 3:10](#) (NASB95)

so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.

He is a real creature

The bible speaks of him

Genesis 3:1 NASB95

Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?’”

Revelation 12:9 NASB95

And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Revelation 20:2 NASB95

And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

2 Corinthians 11:3 NASB95

But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity *of devotion* to Christ.

Job 1:6–7 NASB95

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. The LORD said to Satan, “From where do you come?” Then Satan answered the LORD and said, “From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it.”

Jesus made references to him

Matthew 4:1 NASB95

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Matthew 6:13 NASB95

‘And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.’

Mark 4:15 NASB95

“These are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them.

John 8:44 NASB95

“You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

The Bible gives him several names

In the OT, he is referred to 14 times as Satan.

This word means adversary or opponent.

In the NT, he is referred by the same name 34 times

He is also referred to as the διαβολος or Devil 31 times

He is given other names in the NT such as:

The evil or wicked one (15x)

The dragon (11x)

Snake or Serpent (5x)

Accuser

Liar

Murderer

Enemy

Satan is Undoubtedly Restrained

[Ephesians 6:12](#) (NASB95)

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

He has been given a hierarchy to rule

Revelation 12:9 NASB95

And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

He has been given a domain to rule

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

1 John 1:5 NASB95

This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

John 1:4-5 NASB95

In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

He has been limited by God and has been undeniably restrained by God

Job 1:8-12 NASB95

The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil." Then Satan answered the LORD, "Does Job fear God for nothing? "Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. "But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face." Then the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him." So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD.

Job 2:3-6 NASB95

The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, although you incited Me against him to ruin him without cause." Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. "However, put forth Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh; he will curse You to Your face." So the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your power, only spare his life."

Job 42:1-6 NASB95

Then Job answered the LORD and said, "I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted. 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' "Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know." 'Hear, now, and I will speak; I will ask You, and You instruct me.' "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees You: Therefore I retract, And I repent in dust and ashes."

Satan knows his fate

Genesis 3:15 NASB95

And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

Revelation 20:7-10 NASB95

When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

He cannot indwell the Christian

We find no place in scripture where the devil or demons indwell a believer.

God uses Satan for His purposes

Genesis 50:20 NASB95

“As for you, you meant evil against me, *but* God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.

Satan is Undeniably Reprehensible

[Ephesians 6:12](#) (NASB95)

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Satan rules through lies and deception

John 8:44 NASB95

“You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

The lies of the enemy

Can I trust God’s word?

Genesis 3:1 NASB95

Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden’?”

Can I even know the truth?

Genesis 3:5 NASB95

“For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

I can impress God with my goodness!

Genesis 4:4–5 NASB95

Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and for his offering; but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell.

I can never be loved by God!

I can be sinless!

1 John 1:8 NASB95

If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

Romans 3:23 NASB95

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

My suffering is weakness!

2 Corinthians 13:4 NASB95

For indeed He was crucified because of weakness, yet He lives because of the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, yet we will live with Him because of the power of God *directed* toward you.

I deserve comfort in my life!

Philippians 1:29–30 NASB95

For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear *to be* in me.

2 Corinthians 1:1-5 NASB95

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy *our* brother, **To** the church of God which is at Corinth with all the saints who are throughout Achaia: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.

I don't need to pray!

John 17:12 NASB95

"While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.

Ephesians 6:18 NASB95

With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

The enemy uses all his power to lead the Christian, and above all the minister, to neglect prayer. He knows that however admirable the sermon may be, however attractive the service, however faithful the pastoral visitation, none of these things can damage him or his kingdom if prayer is neglected - Andrew Murray

Why do I not have what others have?

Exodus 20:17 NASB95

"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

I am too busy to love and serve my neighbor or my church!

I am who I am, everyone else is a hypocrite!

I must look the part of a Christian!

It's okay if I don't get along with certain folks in the church!

Grace gives me license to sin!

The Devil made me do it!

Genesis 3:12-13 NASB95

The man said, "The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Conclusion:

Soon the battle will be over. It will not be long now before the day will come when Satan will no longer trouble us. There will be no more domination, temptation, accusation, or confrontation. Our warfare will be over and our commander, Jesus Christ, will call us away from the battlefield to receive the victor's crown. - Thomas Watson

The Lord's table

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 NASB95

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way *He took* the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me."

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.