

Review

- The first three spheres are designed to help you deal with the last two
- Be strong in the Lord – in Christ we have identity, strength, wisdom, family
- It's a war with a deceptive enemy

1. We stand firm in Christ and His victory – we put on the armor of God

- The difference between knowing about the armor and putting it on
- Weapons have been provided but we must put them on
- Defensive weapons – except the Sword of the Spirit

Ephesians 6:10–18 (NIV) 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can **take your stand against** the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to **stand your ground**, and after you have done everything, **to stand**. 14 **Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist**, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

2. The Belt of truth –the battle for the mind

- Remember that Paul is using the picture people were aware of –Roman armor
- The reason the belt of truth is first --The belt of truth holds all the armor together
- Based on the truth all the rest of the armor works
- There is a spiritual realm and there is an enemy and a war
- It makes sense that we need the truth if the devil is a liar and the father of lies

A. There is truth – objective truth –in a world view that makes truth subjective

- Versions of truth in our culture – my feelings determine truth, my appetites determine truth
- The culture determines truth – whatever is legal
- The truth about reality – the enemy – we receive it and make our stand on it

Romans 12:1–3 (NIV) 1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed **by the renewing of your mind**. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. 3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV) 10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

B. Jesus is the source of all truth and truth leads to life

- Physical reality
- Moral and relational truth
- Spiritual reality

C. We have decided to be in Christ at His invitation and we have won if we are in Christ

- Fighting from victory rather than for victory

Colossians 1:16–17 (NIV) 16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

John 14:6–7 (NIV) 6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

D. God has given us His Word so that we can know how to deal with the enemy

John 8:31–32 (NIV) 31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

John 17:14–19 (NIV) 14 I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. 15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world **but that you protect them from the evil one.** 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. 17 **Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.** 18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. 19 For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

3. Using the Word of God to determine truth

1 John 4:1–6 (NIV) 1 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: **Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,** 3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. 4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 5 They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

1 John 1:1–4 (NIV) 1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. 2 The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. 3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 4 We write this to make our joy complete.

How do I determine truth?

1. Do they recognize Jesus (God the Son) came in the flesh?
2. Does the speaker/idea agree with scripture?
3. Do they live out the truth – do they have spiritual fruit?

2 Timothy 3:14–17 (NIV) 14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15 and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Matthew 7:15–21 (NIV), Hebrews 5:11–14 (NIV), Galatians 1:6–8 (NIV)



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