

CLAIMING OUR GOSPEL IDENTITY

Part 5 of WHO AM I? Ephesians 6:10-18.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. October 16, 2022.

SERIES REVIEW

Part 1: Proverbs 2 - Finding truth, wisdom, and understanding.

Part 2: Genesis 1-2 - God made us in his image, male and female.

Part 3: 2 Corinthians 5 - We are a new creation in Christ.

Part 4: 2 Corinthians 10 - We fight against strongholds of lies.

Part 5: Ephesians 6 - We must stand firm in our gospel identity.

ONE: IDENTIFY THE DEVIL'S STRATEGY

Ephesians 6:10-12 (ESV). Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Today, there are philosophies aimed at hijacking our brains.

Notice five indications that we are in a serious conflict:

- Finally: From now on. In this present time. Our entire lives.
- Language of conflict: armor, sword, wrestle.
- Immaterial, invisible enemies: The devil and other evil spiritual rulers.
- Powerful enemies: We need God's strength and might.
- Schemes or strategies: Aimed at destroying what God has done in Christ.

TWO: BELIEVE THE DEVIL CAN BE RESISTED

Ephesians 6:13 (ESV) Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

The armor of God represents God's resources in Christ.

"Stand firm" and "withstand" mean to resist.

- The devil and his evil allies are powerful not invincible.

Colossians 2:15 (ESV) God disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Christ. (by the cross and resurrection)

James 4:7 (ESV) Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

- The devil wants us to resist God (Genesis 3). Resist him instead. Jesus:

Luke 4:12-13 (ESV) And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" 13 And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

God's armor gives us supernatural power to resist the devil and stand in our gospel identity.

THREE: RESIST THE DEVIL

Ephesians 4:14-18 (ESV) Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

Don't focus on the pieces of armor, focus on what they represent.

- Our gospel identity: truth, righteousness, good news/gospel, faith, salvation, Bible, prayer (access to God).

Practically speaking:

- When faced with a lie, resist it with truth.
- When accused by the devil, resist him with righteousness.
- When tempted to despair and doubt resist with the gospel.
- When feeling spiritually weak and vulnerable, resist by faith in God.
- When overcome by temptations, resist with salvation.
- When confused by the culture, resist by the Word and Spirit.
- When the devil whispers in your ear, resist by prayer.

MAKING IT REAL

1 Peter 5:8-9 (ESV) Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith ...

Resist. Stand firm in gospel identity. Reject the devil's lies.

- Lie: You can go your own way. Truth: I am made of dust. I depend on God.
- Lie: You're worthless. Truth: I am made in God's image, loved in Christ.
- Lie: You're rejected. Truth: I am redeemed by the blood of Christ.
- Lie: You're hopeless. Truth: I am born again to a living hope in Christ.
- Lie: You're damaged goods. Truth: I'm forgiven and cleansed from all my sin and guilt. Nothing can separate me from God's love in Christ.

CORNERSTONE GROUPS - TALK IT OVER

Pick one or more of these questions to discuss this week.

Start Talking. Get the conversation going.

- When did you first hear the gospel? What were you told, how did you respond?

Start Thinking. Review Sunday's teaching.

- Review Sunday's study guide or watch Peter's teaching on YouTube.
- What part of the teaching most impacted your thinking?
- Why do the devil/his evil allies use lies and distortions as weapons against us?
- What are some ways that claiming our gospel identity helps us?

Start Sharing. Apply Sunday's teaching.

- What do you do when wrestling with a lie about your identity in Christ?
- How will Sunday's teaching help you put on the whole armor of God?
- How could Ephesians 1-2 provide a framework for thinking about your identity in Christ?

Start Praying. Be bold.

Father, we are in a battle with powerful, evil, beings. They want to derail our faith and wreck our lives. Thank you for offering us your mighty strength to resist the lies, deceptions, and distortions coming from the devil. Thank you for the armor we can "wear" to stand firm in our gospel identity. Please help us to put on truth, righteousness, the gospel, faith, salvation and the Word so that we can live in the fulness and freedom you give us in Jesus Christ. Praise you! Amen!!

Keep Reading. In preparation for next Sunday.

- Review chapter 11 and read chapter 12 of Victory Over the Darkness.