

OUR NEW LIFE –
IN THE FAMILY
IN THE WORKPLACE
IN PERSONAL WARFARE

Ephesians 6



Structure of epistle

Ch. 1-3 Our wealth in Christ

Ch. 4-6 Our walk in Christ

Walking worthy of our calling

4:1 – 4:6 Keeping the unity of the spirit

4:7 – 4:16 Growing unto the “perfect man”

Behaviour befitting members of the body

4:17 – 4:24 Putting on the new man

4:25 – 4:32 Our new life – in the ecclesia

5:1 – 5:21 Our new life – with respect to the world

5:22 – 5:33 Our new life – in marriage

6:1 – 6:4 Our new life – in the family

6:5 – 6:9 Our new life – in the work place

6:10 – 6:17 Our new life – in personal warfare

6:18 – 6:24 Conclusion

“... as unto the Lord”

“Christ is more than kind, he is holy. He is more than forgiving, he is just, and with wickedness angry. He is more than gentle, he is exacting of supreme affection. He is more than good, he is zealous of the Father. He is more than courteous, refined, and cultivated; he is the impartial judge according to each man’s work, regarding not the persons of men, and speaking flattery to none. He is more than man, he is God manifest. The Lamb of God, he is yet the Lion of the tribe of Judah. The healing Sun Of Righteousness, he is yet the treader of the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

A right acquaintance with him will embrace all the features of his beauty, and will lead to the imitation of each of them in our own characters: for he is the example set us to copy. The omission of any causes defect. Some try to imitate his kindness while forgetting his zeal. Others copy his severity while failing to remember his gentleness. Others extol his placability and love while overlooking his righteousness and jealousy of the Father’s honour” **R. Roberts – Seasons of Comfort Vol. 1 p240**

Why should children obey parents?

- Israel's continued occupation of the land given to them was dependent upon the observance of the 5th commandment – "Honour thy father and mother" **Ex 20:12**
- Christ *condemned* the scribes and Pharisees for undermining this commandment. **Matt. 15:4**

The necessity of personal warfare

- "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" **2 Tim 2:3**
- "This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare" **1 Tim 1:18-19**
- "Fight the good fight of faith" **1 Tim 6:11-12**
- "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" **2 Tim 4:7**

Loins girt about with truth



Manifest the truth
to commend
yourself to every
man's conscience

- In O.T. testament times, loose fitting clothes were restrictive of movement. The purpose of girding the loins with a belt or such like was to ready oneself for work or action.
- Girding the loins therefore is a metaphor for being fit to perform God's work. **Job 38:3; Jer 1:17; 1 Pet 1:13**
- How does truth *fit us* to perform God's work? In Ephesus and today, to *effectively* stand against moral corruption and doctrinal error, we must not only know the truth but also manifest it. **2 Cor 4:2**
- (Note the many references to "truth" in Paul's epistles to Timothy. **1 Tim 2:4,7; 3:15; 4:3; 6:5; 2 Tim 2:15,18,25; 3:7,8; 4:4**)

Having on the breastplate of righteousness



Gain the victory
over yourself in
order to withstand
evil from others.

- To conquer sin Christ “put on righteousness as a breastplate” **Isa 59:17**
- By this means he “spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in himself” **Col 2:15**
- How did Christ triumph over those who crucified him? All their cursing, hatred and bitterness was IN HIM under control. **John 8:46**

Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel



Overcome evil
with the gospel
of peace

- “Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace” refers to enthusiastically taking the gospel of peace to others. **Isa 52:7 cmp Rom 10:14-15**
- How does preaching help to defend us? In preaching enthusiastically by word and example, Paul turned some in Caesar's household from foes to friends! **Phil 4:22**
- “Brave the foe, proclaim the Word, sons & daughters of the Lord, work ye for the Lord of heaven, give as he hath freely given” **Hymn 344**

The shield of faith to quench the fiery darts of the wicked



Let faith cast
out all fear

- Fiery darts were used in warfare to destroy the enemy's property and defences.
Psalms 120:4 They are a metaphor for any attack from the wicked that could destroy our walk in Christ.
- How does faith defend us? It enables us to endure:
 - persecution and afflictions from without
1 Pet 5:8-9; Heb 11:33-34
 - temptation from within **1Tim 6:10-12**

Helmet of salvation



Hope to the end
for the grace
that is to be
brought unto you

- Christ “put on a helmet of salvation”
Isa 59:17
- Paul elsewhere speaks of “putting on ... for an helmet, the hope of salvation” **1 Thes 5:8**
- How did Christ put on the helmet of salvation? “for the **joy** that was set before him (he) endured the cross”
Heb 12:2
- Salvation protects the mind when the mind is occupied with it.

The sword of the spirit



Take heed unto
thyself, and
unto the
doctrine

- Gk "machaira", short 70cm sword (as opposed to the larger broadsword (romphaia). Used in close hand to hand combat.
- The sword derives its power from the "word of God". **Eph 6:17**
- What is that power? The ability to:
 - "destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God" **2 Cor 10:5 (ESV)**
 - expose "the thoughts and intents of the heart " **Heb 4:12**

Praying always



Watch ye and
pray, lest ye
enter into
temptation

- Pray without ceasing **1 Thes 5:17**
- “men ought always to pray and not to faint” **Luke 18:1**
- “offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually” **Heb 13:15**

The full armour of God

Take heed unto thyself,
and unto the doctrine

Hope to the end for the grace that is to be
brought unto you

Gain the victory over yourself

Let faith cast out all fear

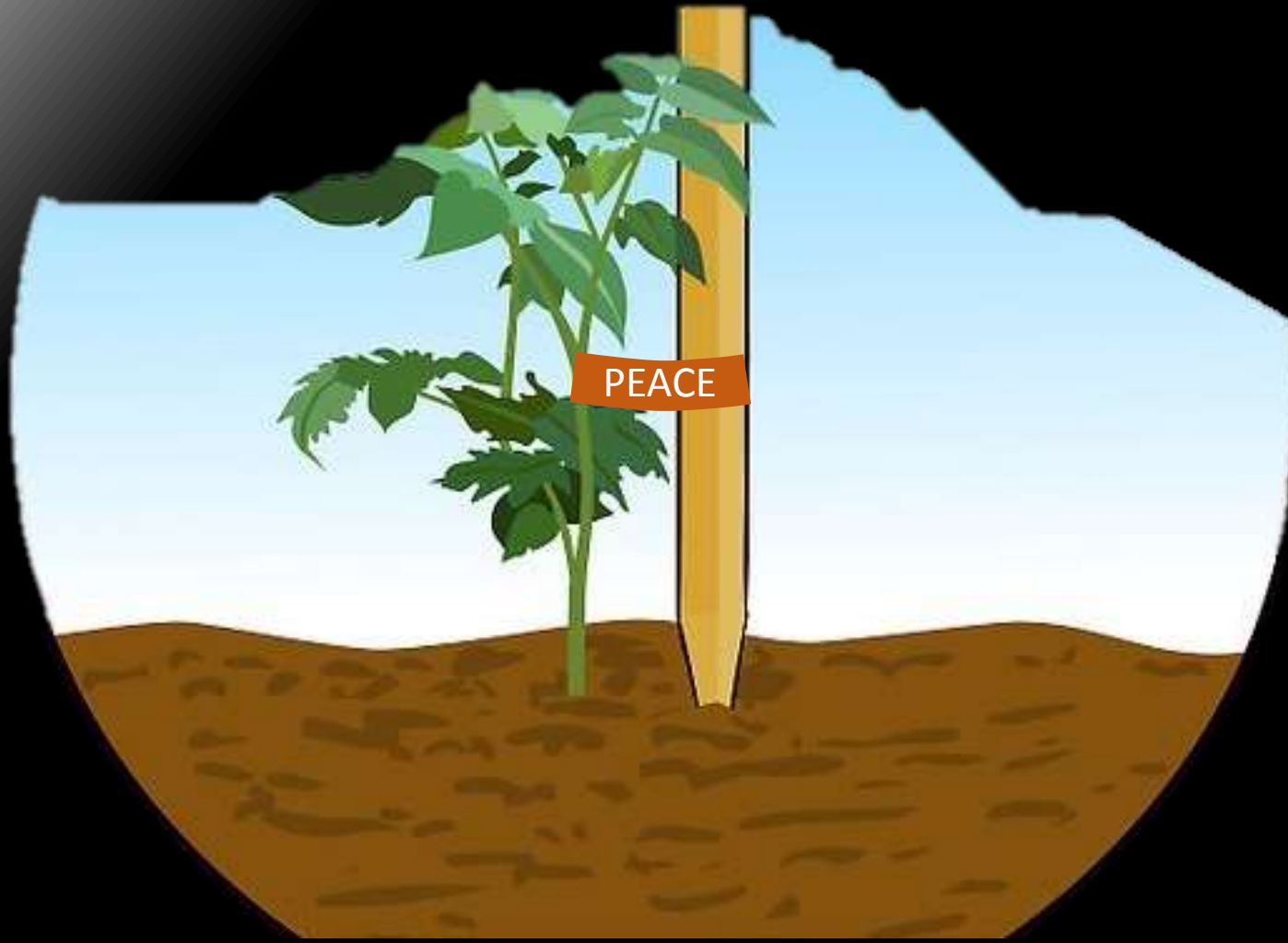
Manifest the truth

Pray without
ceasing

Overcome evil with the gospel of peace



Keeping the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace



Unity is a slow growing plant. It thrives in soil that is well drained of pride, assertiveness, and impatience. It needs light but withers in the presence of heated arguments. Being a tender plant, it requires a bond of peace to keep it in place. It has been planted by God, he expects us to keep it alive.

What are you doing to make it grow?