

studies from
EPHESIANS

~Life Group Questions~
Walking in Righteousness
Ephesians 6:10-20

1. Is there anything that particularly caught your attention, confused or challenged you as a result of hearing Sunday's sermon?
2. Chapters 1-3 of Ephesians catalogue the "riches of His grace which He lavished on us" in Jesus Christ. We are given the armor of God so that we can stand firm in God's lavished grace. Take a few minutes to peruse chapters 1-3 and share with the group one aspect of God's grace you find worthiest to fight to stand firm in.
3. As a point of review, list each piece of the armor of God recorded in Ephesians 6:13-17.
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
 6. _____
4. Though each piece of God's armor is vital for helping us stand firm in grace, for the sake of discussion, which piece of armor would you least like to go into battle without and why?
5. What parts of the body was the breastplate designed to protect?
6. Read Phil 1:8; 2:1, Jeremiah 4:19 (compare your version with the KJV) and the Great Commandment in Matthew 22:37 and discuss how the Bible relates our physical organs with our spiritual makeup.
7. In light of the above discussion and considering the verse below, why is it so important to protect the vital organs of our spiritual make up?

Proverbs 4:23

Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.

8. Compare Romans 3:9-20 to Deuteronomy 32:4 (see below) and discuss the following question. Whose righteousness is the Christian's breastplate made up of, our own righteousness or the righteousness of God?

Deuteronomy 32:4

The Rock! His work is perfect, for all His ways are just; a God of faithfulness and without injustice, righteous and upright is He.

9. According to Romans 4:1-8 how do we receive God's righteousness? Pay particular attention to verse 3 and the word "reckoned."

10. Though scripture clearly states that we cannot earn God's righteousness, we often fall back into a work's based model seeking a right standing before God. Discuss the frailty of a works based model in light of the statement below.

The works based model's primary characteristic is conditionality and, as a result, is an essentially contractual structure: "If you do x (which is good), then you will be rewarded and if you do y (which is bad)—or perhaps if you fail to do x—then you will be punished."

11. Read Philippians 3:4-9. What does this passage say about the value the Apostle Paul placed on his works based righteousness in relation to the righteousness of God?

12. Though we can in no way earn God's righteousness, according to Matthew 5:6, what ought to be the desire of our hearts after clothing ourselves in the righteousness of God?

Matthew 5:6

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

13. Read the following two passages and discuss the difference between how we experience being clothed with God's righteousness here and now (on earth) as opposed to how we will experience it then and there (in heaven).

Isaiah 61:10

I will rejoice greatly in the LORD, My soul will exult in my God; For He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Revelation 19:7-8

7 "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." 8 It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

Yes, we are in a battle, but it is a battle that has already been won. Remember: you are not fighting for victory, but from victory, for Jesus Christ has already defeated Satan!

You are clothed in the righteousness of God!!!