



10.08.17 | What to Wear to a War

Ephesians 6:10-18

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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.

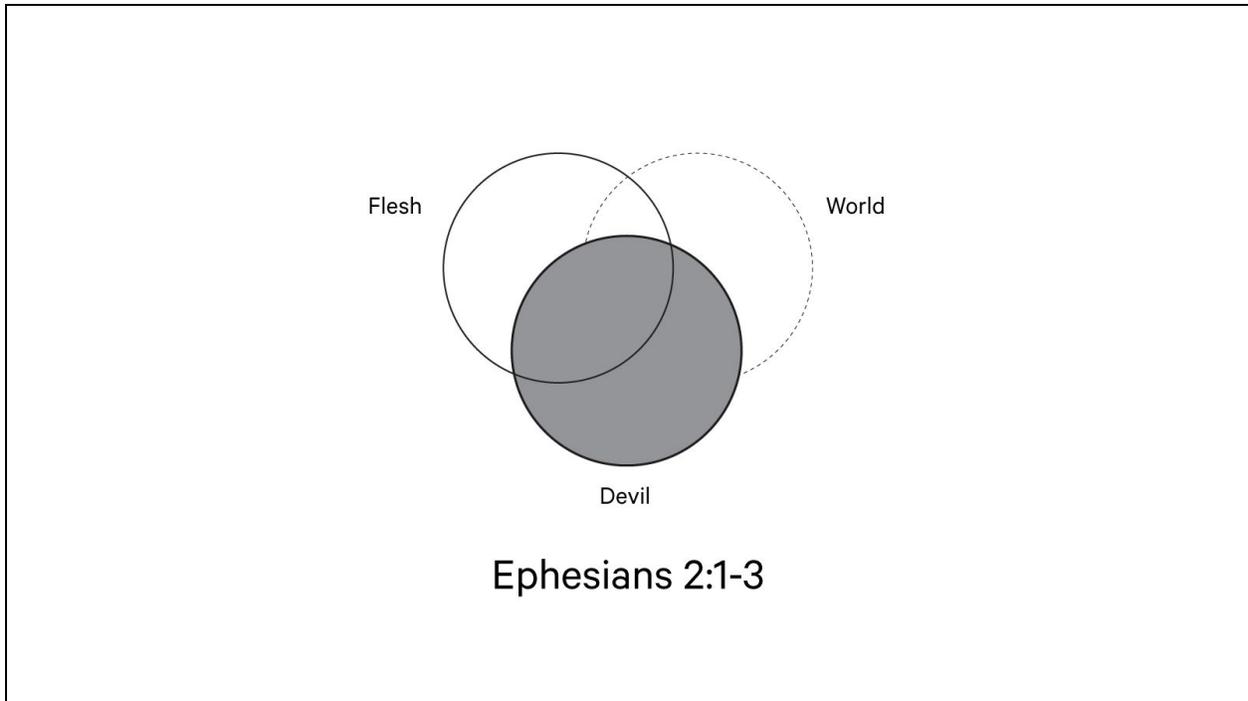
"I'm tryna keep my faith
But I'm looking for more
Somewhere I can feel safe
And end my holy war"

- Kanye West, "Ultralight Beam"

And the main point of this imagery is that Christianity should be understood as warfare and believers should prepare for this warfare just as any soldier would prepare for battle.

Ephesians 2:1-3

1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts.



The Flesh: is the inner propensity or inclination to do evil.

The World: is the unhealthy social environment in which we live.

Satan (Hebrew, "*Ha Satan*, adversary, oppose") or Devil (Greek, "*Diabolos*, slanderer, accuser"): is an intelligent, powerful being that is thoroughly evil and is directly involved in perpetrating evil in the lives of individuals as well as on a much larger scale.

John 8:44

"You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the

beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

John 10:10

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

“The Biblical picture of the satan is a nonhuman and non-divine quasi-personal force which seems bent on attacking and destroying creation in general and humankind in particular, and above all on thwarting God’s project of remaking the world and human beings in and through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.”

- NT Wright, *Evil and the Justice of God*

The armor is the fortification of your life against the flesh, the world, and the devil.

“Spiritual warfare is fought with the Spiritual Disciplines.”