

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** Preparing for the Battle

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Ephesians 5:1-12, 6:10-24

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- 1) INTRODUCTION
  - a) The chief pornographer is Satan.
    - i) Satan is a pervert.
    - ii) He is behind the whole pornographic industry.
  - b) Ephesians 6:12
    - i) This is what the Apostle Paul wrestled against in Ephesus.
  - c) Ephesus and Corinth were twin cities.
    - i) They were the cesspools of the first century.
  - d) Unspeakable immorality took place in Ephesus.
    - i) Yet, God raised up a colony of Heaven there; an outpost of the Kingdom of God.
      - (1) The Apostle Paul had some wonderful, Spirit-filled saints there who came to know the Lord Jesus Christ and lived in victory.
  - e) Don't say that you cannot live in victory today.
    - i) If it will not work now, then it was no good then.
    - ii) If it will not work for you, then it will not work for anyone.
    - iii) If it will not work with your situation, then it will not work with any situation.
    - iv) There is victory for us.
      - (1) When we are born again, we are born to win.
  - f) Ephesians 5:1-2
  - g) The worst thing about pornography is that it wars on love.
    - i) It is against love.
    - ii) It is the opposite of love.
    - iii) It is devastating to love.
    - iv) Love and lust are direct opposites.
    - v) Someone who is into pornography has decimated his ability to love God and to love others.
    - vi) Pornography erodes love.
  - h) Ephesians 5:2-7
    - i) We are not to covet another person's spouse or another person's physical attractiveness.
    - ii) If these verses describe our lifestyle, then we are either terribly backslidden or altogether lost.
  - i) Ephesians 5:11-12
    - i) The Apostle Paul was ashamed even to talk about these things.
    - ii) Paul did, however, warn us about them.
  - j) In Ephesians 6, Paul talks about the family because pornography wars against love and the family.
    - i) The family is the only part of the Garden of Eden that we have left.
    - ii) The family is where we can love and be loved.
    - iii) Satan wars against the family.
  - k) Unless we learn something about spiritual warfare, we are going to lose the battle against pornography.

- l) Ephesians 6:10-18
  - m) There is a war that Satan is waging against us.
    - i) One of his chief tools is pornography.
    - ii) We need to counterattack under our Commander in Chief, who is the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - iii) It is a battle between light and darkness, good and evil, Heaven and Hell, and Satan and the Savior.
  - n) In today's message, we will see that we are called to battle.
    - i) We are called to battle for our families.
- 2) THE CHRISTIAN WARRIOR AND HIS ADVERSARY (EPHESIANS 6:10-12)
- a) We must know our enemy.
    - i) Our enemy is Satan.
  - b) He is a decided fact.
    - i) Ephesians 6:11
    - ii) Never underestimate Satan.
    - iii) Never count him out.
    - iv) Never say that he doesn't exist, that he is a figment of the imagination, that he is a metaphor, or that he is a figure of speech.
    - v) Satan has always wanted to pull the veil of darkness over his kingdom.
    - vi) We live in an age that laughs at the idea of Satan and demons.
    - vii) If there is no enemy and we don't recognize that Satan is behind pornography, then we are not going to make any preparation.
      - (1) Or, when we fight, we are going to fight in the wrong arena.
    - viii) If you haven't met the devil, then it is because you and the devil have been going in the same direction.
  - c) He is a destructive force.
    - i) He is systematic.
      - (1) Ephesians 6:11
        - (a) The word "wiles" in this verse speaks of Satan's methods.
        - (2) Satan has methodically gone about to seduce our children.
        - (3) He is very clever.
        - (4) He is behind Hollywood, the networks, and the sitcoms.
        - (5) Satan is working very strategically.
        - (6) 2 Corinthians 2:11
    - ii) He is spiritual.
      - (1) Ephesians 6:12
      - (2) Our real battle is not with the pornographer, Hollywood, or X-rated movies.
        - (a) Our real battle is against a sinister enemy whose name is Satan.
      - (3) As long as we are fighting flesh and blood, we are not going to win the battle.
      - (4) 2 Corinthians 10:4

- (a) Good intentions, philosophy, psychology, and resolution are carnal weapons.
        - (i) All of these things an unsaved person can do.
      - (b) We are not going to win a spiritual battle with carnal weapons.
    - iii) He is very strong.
      - (1) Ephesians 6:12
      - (2) We don't have what it takes to win this battle.
      - (3) If pornography doesn't tempt you, then Satan will get you in another way.
        - (a) He knows where your weakness is.
      - (4) If we try to live for God in any other way except by depending on the Holy Spirit of God, then we are going down because Satan is greater than we are.
        - (a) But greater is He (the Lord) that is in us than he that is in the world.
          - (i) 1 John 4:4
    - iv) He is very sinister.
      - (1) Satan has tyrannical control on this world.
      - (2) He has no mercy on your family.
      - (3) He has no mercy upon the ministry.
  - d) He is a defeated foe.
    - i) Ephesians 6:10
    - ii) Satan had his back crushed at Calvary.
    - iii) Soon, his head will be crushed when Jesus comes again.
    - iv) 1 John 4:4
    - v) Satan hopes that we never learn that he is a defeated foe.
- 3) THE CHRISTIAN WARRIOR AND HIS ARMOR (EPHESIANS 6:11, 13-17)
  - a) When we go into battle, we need to take the whole armor and holy armor.
  - b) Put on the girdle (belt) of truth.
    - i) Ephesians 6:11, 13-14
    - ii) This speaks of our integrity.
    - iii) Early warriors would wear a leather belt from which they would hang their weapons.
      - (1) God says that the truth is very much like that belt.
        - (a) If it comes loose, then everything else falls apart.
    - iv) This belt speaks of truth; not just facts or a knowledge of truth, but integrity, truth in the inner person.
      - (1) Do you have integrity?
        - (a) If someone could see your heart like God does, then would that person be disappointed?
    - v) The people in Ephesus were able to go to war and win because they had the belt of truth.
  - c) Put on the breastplate of righteousness.
    - i) This is the believer's purity.

- ii) Ephesians 6:14
  - (1) A soldier in that day would have metal plates or chains that would cover his body from the chest to the waist.
    - (a) This would protect his vital organs.
  - (2) If there was a crack in the breastplate, then the enemy had an advantage.
- iii) Do you have on the breastplate of righteousness?
  - (1) Not only integrity, but purity?
  - (2) Is there in your heart any unconfessed or unrepented sin?
- iv) We are not going to win the war on pornography if all we fight is pornography.
  - (1) What about pride and selfishness?
- v) There is no reason why anyone cannot be as pure and as clean as the driven snow.
  - (1) 1 John 1:9
  - (2) Why would you want to start the day with the baggage of sin when you can be clean?
- vi) Treat sin like sin would treat you.
  - (1) Have no mercy on sin.
    - (a) Sin will have no mercy on you.
- vii) We need purity when we go into this battle.
- d) Have your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.
  - i) Ephesians 6:15
    - (1) A soldier in this day would have not only a leather belt and a breastplate, but he would also have boots.
      - (a) They were hobnail boots.
        - (i) They had cleats or spikes on them.
          - 1. They would be thick enough to help the soldier on rocky soil where he might slip.
        - (b) He could get his feet into the turf so he could stand and fight.
      - (b) He could get his feet into the turf so he could stand and fight.
  - ii) The gospel of peace gives us standing.
    - (1) It is knowing that there is nothing between our soul and the Savior.
    - (2) It is knowing that we are His, and He is ours.
    - (3) It is being at peace with God.
  - iii) The shoes represent tranquility and being at peace.
  - iv) People get into sin because they are hungry, lonely, and not satisfied.
    - (1) They are trying to find what their hearts yearn for.
      - (a) Our hearts will never rest until they rest in Jesus.
- e) Put on the shield of faith.
  - i) Ephesians 6:16
    - (1) A soldier of that day would have a shield.
      - (a) It would be about two feet wide and four feet long.
      - (b) It would be covered with either metal or leather.
    - (2) It would be strapped to the soldier's arm as he would fight.

- (a) In this day, they would not only fight with arrows but with flaming arrows or fiery darts.
    - (i) The shield would ward them off.
- ii) Faith is to us a shield.
  - (1) Faith is what keeps the devil's fiery darts of insinuation and lust from getting through to us.
- iii) This is the believer's certainty against doubt.
- iv) When we talk about living a pure life, we need to have it plain in our hearts that there is a fixed standard of right and wrong.
  - (1) Telling our children not to do something is not enough.
  - (2) The only way that we are going to have any real success is to get our kids to believe that the Bible is the Word of God.
- v) Take the Bible as the shield of faith.
  - (1) It is the Bible that instills faith.
    - (a) Romans 10:17
  - (2) There is a battle against the Bible.
    - (a) The very first thing in the Garden of Eden was an insinuation against the Word of God.
      - 1. This is part of the wiles of the devil, and it is continuing today.
    - (b) If anyone causes doubt concerning the Word of God, then he is doing the work of the devil.
  - (3) We have to have certainty.
    - (a) What keeps us going is not how we feel but what we know.
  - (4) Our faith is rooted in the Word of God.
    - (a) This gives us stability.
  - (5) When Satan comes with his fiery darts, we can take the Word of God and overcome him.
- f) Put on the helmet of salvation.
  - i) Ephesians 6:17
    - (1) The helmet is to protect the head.
      - (a) The head directs the whole body.
    - (2) The word "salvation" here literally means "deliverance."
      - (a) This is not just talking about getting saved.
      - (b) This is talking about keeping our minds protected so that we can have deliverance.
  - ii) This speaks of the believer's sanity or the believer's liberty.
  - iii) A person who is into pornography is devil-controlled.
  - iv) A person who is devil-controlled is not in his right mind.
    - (1) Mark 5:1-15 tells of a man who was demon possessed.
      - (a) Jesus cast the devil out of him.
        - (i) Afterwards, the people "found him sitting and clothed and in his right mind."
        - (ii) Before this, the man was given to nudity.

1. His mind was under the control of the evil one.
  - v) We need to put on sanity every day.
    - (1) We need to have our minds under the blood of the Lord Jesus.
    - (2) We need to have our minds renewed.
  - g) God wants us to have the following:
    - i) Integrity
    - ii) Purity
    - iii) Tranquility
    - iv) Certainty
    - v) Sanity
      - (1) We are to put on each of these.
  - h) Each one of these pieces of armor is really the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - i) Jesus is truth.
    - ii) Jesus is righteousness.
    - iii) Jesus is our faith.
    - iv) Jesus is our salvation.
    - v) We put on the Lord Jesus Christ.
  
- 4) THE CHRISTIAN WARRIOR AND HIS ATTACK (EPHESIANS 6:10)
  - a) We cannot be neutral.
    - i) We are to be in the battle.
    - ii) We are to win the war.
  - b) There are three things that will help us in this battle:
    - i) The place of our stance.
      - (1) Ephesians 6:10
      - (2) Ephesians 6:14
      - (3) Many times, we ask God to give us victory over Satan.
        - (a) We have victory.
          - (i) Satan is defeated.
      - (4) Jesus has given us “authority over all the power of the enemy.”
        - (a) Luke 10:19
        - (b) We don’t have to say, “God, help me,” when we fight Satan.
        - (c) We can say, “Satan, I stand in the name of Jesus against you. I have authority against you.”
      - (5) We need to stop asking God for what we already have and start using what we have.
        - (a) We can tell Satan “no” to his attacks and temptations.
          - (i) Satan hopes we will not do this.
        - (b) This is not saying don’t pray.
          - (i) We need prayer.
          - (ii) But we don’t need to ask God to give us victory over Satan.
            1. We have the victory because we have the Victor.
              - a. 1 John 4:4
      - ii) The power of our sword.

- (1) Ephesians 6:17
- (2) When Satan came against Jesus when He was fasting and praying, how did Jesus overcome Satan?
  - (a) Luke 4:2-13
  - (b) Jesus did not defeat Satan because Jesus is God.
  - (c) Jesus defeated Satan not as God but as a man.
    - (i) Jesus is our example.
    - (ii) How could Jesus be our example if He overcame Satan by being God?
  - (d) The weapons that were available to Jesus when He was being tempted are the same weapons that are available to us.
    - (i) They are the sword of the Spirit and the Spirit who handles the sword.
  - (e) Hebrews 4:15
    - (i) It is not a sin to be tempted.
      1. If you have temptations, then it doesn't mean that you are wicked.
    - (ii) "Jesus was tempted in all points like we are, yet He was without sin."
      1. Why?
        - a. Jesus went into the wilderness "full of the Holy Ghost."
          - i. Luke 4:1
        - b. When the enemy came and tempted Him, Jesus took the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.
        - c. Hebrew 4:12
- (3) Satan hopes that we will not use the Word of God.
- (4) When the Bible says that Jesus took the sword of the Spirit and when it speaks of the sword of the Spirit here in Ephesians 6, it uses the word "rhema."
  - (a) This does not mean the Bible in total.
  - (b) Jesus used a Word from the Word.
    - (i) "Thus, it is written..."
      1. Luke 4:4, 8
    - (ii) This is the reason why we need to memorize Scripture.
- iii) The power of our supplication.
  - (1) Ephesians 6:18
  - (2) The only way we can stand and properly use the sword is to pray.
    - (a) Because it is the sword of the Spirit, we pray in the Spirit.
  - (3) Praying in the Spirit is letting the Holy Spirit energize our prayers and direct our prayers.
    - (a) It is not praying in the flesh.
  - (4) Ephesians 6:12
    - (a) The battle is a spiritual battle, so we pray in the Spirit.
  - (5) If we don't pray, then the devil will beat us.



- (a) We can have all the authority in the world, but if we don't appropriate it through prayer, then we are going down.
- (6) It is in prayer that we appropriate what God has given us.
  - (a) It is not asking God to defeat Satan.
    - (i) Satan is defeated.
  - (7) When we pray, we will be able to overcome Satan.
- 5) THE CHRISTIAN WARRIOR AND HIS ALLIES (EPHESIANS 6:18-19, 24)
  - a) We don't fight alone.
  - b) We need to pray for each other.
    - i) Some people have never been prayed for.
    - ii) If we have someone praying for us, then we are blessed.
  - c) Husbands need to pray for wives, and wives need to pray for husbands.
  - d) Parents need to pray for children.
  - e) Pastors need to pray for their congregation.
    - i) The congregation needs to pray for the pastor and the people.
  - f) We are in the battle together, and it is a real battle.
  - g) Let's hold one another up in prayer.
  - h) Let's encourage one another.
- 6) CONCLUSION
  - a) As you prepare for battle, you need to do the following:
    - i) Guard your heart.
    - ii) Protect your home.
    - iii) Pray for one another.
  - b) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
  - c) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
    - i) Romans 3:23
    - ii) Romans 10:9-10
    - iii) Romans 10:13
    - iv) Acts 16:31
    - v) John 3:16