

Radiant Identity

Ephesians 6:13-15 (p. 1046)

(Actually read v. 10-15 for context)

"I final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil ruler and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News (the Gospel) so that you will be fully prepared."

We live in a supernatural world and the forces of evil are pressing against us, working to get us to give up our ground.. We are children of YHWH and in Christ, He has given us what we need to stand our ground. Our battle plan is to stand in our new identity in Christ where no evil can rob of us our salvation because "God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made Him head over all things for the benefit of the church, His people."

Writing notes: Need to distinguish between each point. Bring out the specialness of each part while also making sure to communicate that they all come together in Christ. A person cannot have one without the others, neither can Christ's work and provision of any one be deficient based on an individual's personal weakness. None of this is actually based on man's sufficiency, only Christ's.

1. Radiant people confidently trust in the truth that they are united with Christ.

Seeing is believing. (might use this) When we see who we belong to and who we are because of Him, we can hold our ground against evil.

Eph. 1:3-14 (p. 1040)

3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. 4 Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. 5 God decided in advance to

adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. 6 So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. 7 He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. 8 He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.

9 God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan. 10 And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. 11 Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan.

12 God's purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God. 13 And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. 14 The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.”

2. Radiant people are clothed in Christ's righteousness not their own good deeds or intentions. There is no one righteous outside of Jesus, so confess your sins and receive the gift of His righteousness.

Phil. 3:2-11 (p. 1052)

2 Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. 3 For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort, 4 though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more! 5 I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. 6 I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault. 7 I once thought these things were valuable, but

now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. 8 Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ 9 and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. 10 I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, 11 so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!

Eph. 2:1-7 (p. 1041)

1 "Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. 2 You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. 3 All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. 4 But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much 5 that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus."

Romans 5:12-19 (p. 993)

12 "When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned. 13 Yes, people sinned even before the law was given. But it was not counted as sin because there was not yet any law to break. 14 Still, everyone died—from the time of Adam to the time of Moses—even those who did not disobey an explicit commandment of God, as Adam did. Now Adam is a symbol, a representation of Christ, who was yet to come. 15 But there is a great difference between Adam's sin and God's gracious gift. For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ. 16 And the result of God's gracious gift is

very different from the result of that one man's sin. For Adam's sin led to condemnation, but God's free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins. 17 For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.

18 Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. 19 Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous."

3. Radiant people stand in peace with God and other people by the

blood of Christ. The Gospel is the good news that God has made a way for human beings to have peace with Him, and to become His partners in bringing back to God as many as will come. God is not sitting in His throne room with skepticism about the number of people who will come to Him. He is generously and lovingly extending peace to all people at the cost of the blood of His Son, Jesus. We must put on these "shoes" to be prepared for the attack of the enemy. Stay in peace with God.

Eph. 2:11-18 (p. 1042)

11 Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called "uncircumcised heathens" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts. 12 In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. 13 But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.

14 For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. 15 He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and

Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. 16 Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.

17 He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. 18 Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.

Romans 5:1-2, 6-11, 20-21 (p. 993)

1 "Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. 2 Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.

6 When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. 7 Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. 8 But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. 9 And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation. 10 For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. 11 So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

20 God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant. 21 So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Closing:

"Holy Spirit, what are you saying to me today about?"

If you've never said yes to following Jesus and you're ready to do that now, we want to pray with you..

Further notes:

-Isaiah 59:16-18!! (p. 618)

*16 He was amazed to see that no one intervened
to help the oppressed.*

*So he himself stepped in to save them with his strong arm,
and his justice sustained him.*

*17 He put on righteousness as his body armor
and placed the helmet of salvation on his head.*

*He clothed himself with a robe of vengeance
and wrapped himself in a cloak of divine passion.*

*18 He will repay his enemies for their evil deeds.
His fury will fall on his foes.*

He will pay them back even to the ends of the earth.

-Our state without God (Eph. 2:1-3)

Ezekiel 33:13 (p. 713)

*When I tell righteous people that they will live, but then they sin, expecting
their past righteousness to save them, then none of their righteous acts will
be remembered. I will destroy them for their sins.*

PRACTICING THE WAY

*As disciples of Jesus, we know our allegiance to Him as King is expressed in our daily practice.
We are not pursuing perfection, but want to practice our faith each day. These practices will
point you toward spiritual formation as an apprentice (disciple) to Jesus.*

Start the Fresh Start Pathway with a friend.

Recite the Radiant Liturgy each morning:

*We are the radiant people of God. We are consumed with the preeminence, purity,
and beauty of the holy God who was before the beginning. He provided Redemption
for us, making a way into a relationship that produces unimaginable renewal in our
lives, and eventually, the world itself. So we gather to encounter His presence and be
transformed into the radiant people of God. We are His apprentices and*

ambassadors. We are full of joy and peace and love. We are the people of God in full pursuit of the person of Jesus, the power of His presence, and actively walking in the pathway of His teachings. We long to see Him create renewal in the place we live. We are passionate about Jesus. We are radiant.

Talk it Over (with friends, a spouse, or connect group)

- Read Ephesians 6:10-15 . What do you notice within this passage?
- Sunday's message was about living in your radiant identity. Did anything in the message stand out to you or stir a question within you?
- Radiant people confidently trust in the truth that they are united with Christ. How does this truth help you define your identity?
- Radiant people are clothed in Christ's righteousness not their own good deeds or intentions. Based on Romans 5:12-19, what are the results of putting on Christ's righteousness?
- Radiant people stand in peace with God and other people by the blood of Christ. Is there a relationship that you need peace in?
- Read Ephesians 2:11-18. How does this passage help you navigate a relationship in need of God's peace?