

Remnant Life Church
June 19, 2016
Father's Day – Wearing the Right Armor
Ephesians 6:10-20

- The model of a good man
 - Often completely overlooked because of who he was married to
 - God did not only select the right woman to be a mother to His Son, He also selected the right man to be His father.
 - Joseph was, by the customs of the day, probably in his mid to late 20's at the time of Jesus birth with Mary being in her early to mid teens
 - Betrothal in biblical times different than today
 - There was the natural appearance of betrayal
 - How Joseph responded spoke of and demonstrated his character
 - 1. He was a loving man
 - toward Mary (divorce her quietly: [Matt 1:19](#))
 - toward Jesus – not one of “this is not my son” but loving as a father teaching and guiding him ([Luke 2:51-52](#))
 - Anxiously searching for Him – ([Luke 2:48](#))
 - 2. He was a devout man
 - He was obedient to what God told him to do ([Matt 1:24](#); [2:13](#), [21](#))
 - Chose to obey God rather than his own feelings and even to what others were probably saying to him.
 - 3. He was a man of faith
 - He left everything he had (like his ancestor Abraham – [Matt 1:2-16](#) - before him) and went where God told him to go
 - Joseph is not spoken of again after the birth account except as an identification of Jesus (Joseph's son)
 - He certainly was gone by the time Jesus was crucified - Jesus on the cross asking John to care for Mary – ([John 19:27](#))
 - Joseph not only provided for his family their basic needs he loved them, was an example of a Godly man, and demonstrated what it was to be a man of character and integrity
 - Are those words that would be used by others to describe you?
- And so men how do we guard ourselves today men in a world that is determined to keep us from living as a godly man of integrity?

READ – Eph 6:10-20

The Pieces of the Armor

1. Belt – held everything together

2. Breastplate – protected the vital organs
3. Shoes – firm footing to stand
4. Shield – overall protection
5. Helmet – protection for the head/mind
6. Sword – the power weapon

- Note: every piece is intended to cover the front; no armor for the back
- The armor is for advancing forward not for protection as we run
 - Greater exposure if the soldier ran away
- Yet many Christians have come to see the armor as what we hide behind embracing an attitude of simply surviving
- There are those who teach that the sword is the only offensive weapon we are given
 - I don't agree
 - Every piece is both defensive **and** offensive
- Many times how you see your armor also determines how long you have to stay in a battle
 - If you see your armor as defensive only then your opponent determines how long the battle lasts
 - If offensive then you determine the length of the battle by what you choose to do with the armor
- We are coming into, and I believe have already entered, a time when we can no longer afford to lay back and simply fend off the advances of the enemy
 - Like David we need to run at the battle line
 - Taking 5 stones – one for each of the brothers of Goliath after he dispatched with him
 - We must regain the confidence of who we are in Christ!
- MEN – the responsibility begins with us!
 - Father's Day, like Mother's Day, is not restricted to whether you have sired any offspring
 - Being a father is investing in someone's life in love and humility
 - If you are a husband
 - You are called to lead (Eph 5:21-25) in a Godly manner – as a servant
 - You are called to provide (I Tim 5:8)
 - You are called to be a man of peace and honor – what is your home like? (Prov 17:1)
 - If you are causing your wife any anguish or pain through your actions God is going to hold you accountable
 - Whatever that might be – STOP IT – RIGHT NOW
 - Is it fair?
 - + only 16 times in the Bible (NIV)
 - + 4 times in the NT
 - + 2 times about treating another person (not ourselves) with justice
 - + the other 2 times had to do with the weather
 - Fair is today's marker of self-justice not the Bible's

- If you are doing what you do in your home by what you think is “fair” for you then you are not fulfilling your God-given responsibilities
- Husbands love your wife as Christ loved the church (Eph 5:25)
- How is that? In total sacrifice

The Wrong Armor

- The world’s definition of a man - macho
- Financial presence but emotional absence
- Lording over
- Unfaithfulness (not just physically)

The Right Armor

1. The Belt of Truth – guards us against the lies of the enemy
2. The Breastplate of Righteousness – guards our heart, our emotions that can so easily lead us in directions that we should not go
3. The Shoes of the Readiness of the Gospel – takes us to those who do not know Jesus; **love the person-hate the sin** (Eph. 6:12)
4. The Shield of Faith – fends off the fiery darts of false accusations, insults, and setbacks that the enemy hurls at us; too many overly sensitive men
 - *A man’s wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense* (Prov. 19:11)
5. The Helmet of Salvation – the true knowledge not the world’s; assurance of our salvation and forgiveness to leave our past and forgiven sins behind
6. The Sword of Spirit/His Word – the power of the Word of God to speak into our lives and those around us
 - How do you use the armor?
 - Is it to only protect or are you moving toward the battle lines in your home, your office, your family?
 - We speak of the changes that must come to our world as starting in the church but the church’s foundation is the home
 - The family was the first social structure created by God (Gen 2:24)
 - The church structure came much later (Acts 2)
 - The church grew out of the home structure and men we are the one’s responsible to see that everywhere we go the name of God is glorified and the love of Jesus is not just spoken but demonstrated with how I live my life.