**The Armor of God Part 2: Our Enemy** (1 May 2016)

Ephesians 6:10-20 (NKJV)

1. **Review from last week**
2. If we are to understand our warfare, the Armor of God and its usage we must first identify our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and our \_\_\_\_\_ in the battle that has been waged against us. (vs. 10-11)
* Position: we are \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (You can't be strong in something you're not "in it")

Ephesians 6:10 (AMP) *In conclusion, be strong in the Lord [be empowered through your union with Him]; draw your strength from Him [that strength which His boundless might provides].*

* Role: we are to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Not advance) (Ephesians 6:11)
* The soul is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ between the body and the spirit; and by the Spirit's work in us gets to choose our position, as well as whether or not we will stick to the role Christ says we are to play.

Cap on last Sunday's message:

Grace \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ + Grace \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_= soul \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (See Romans 12:1-2, 2 Peter 3:18)

1. **Introduction for today**

Once we know our position and role we need to know the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of our enemy (vs. 11-13).

1. **Identity**
2. Our enemies are the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and other demonic beings (vs. 11b-12).
* See 2 Corinthians 10:3-4

6 out of 10 Americans and Christians (59%) say that Satan “is not a living being but is a symbol of evil.”

58% agree that the Holy Spirit is “a symbol of God’s power or presence but is not a living entity."

2 out of 3 Christians (64%) agree that a person can be under the influence of spiritual forces, such as demons or evil spirits.

Americans Draw Theological Beliefs from Diverse Points of View &

Most American Christians Do Not Believe that Satan or the Holy Spirit Exist

Barna Research Group, October 8, 2002 & April 13, 2009

"It's often been said that one of the devil's greatest tricks is to convince people that he doesn't really exist—and it's true."

- Billy Graham Answers 8 Questions About Satan and Idols, Charisma News Magazine July 29, 2015

1. The implications of not believing the devil exist are that we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* The battles: We believe the lie that, we can't live \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, walking in newness of life (2 Corinthians 5:17), because the new me has as many \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as the old me. So, we don't continue to stand and resist the devil (James 4:7).
* The war: Eternal judgment and separation from God. We can't win a war if we don't know \_\_\_\_\_ our enemy is. We can't help others in the war if they can't \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with God about who their enemy is.
1. **Nature**
2. Our enemies are not of this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.(vs. 12)
* Principality: used of supramundane beings who exercise rule.

-Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary Of Old and New Testament Words

* Supramundane: being or situated above the world or above our system.

-Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary

* Powers (Greek: exousia): (in the sense of ability); privilege

-Strong’s Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

* Rulers of darkness: i.e. where there is no light (revelation) only obscurity
* Spiritual host of wickedness: non carnal (Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries), departure from divine law; evil disposition or practices (Webster's 1828 Dictionary)
* In heavenly places: in the high (celestial) places or in the spiritual world.
1. The implication of our enemies' nature is we are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* We are "a little lower than angels" (Psalm 8:5, Hebrews 2:6-9)
* Only in Christ, who will reign over all, can we make it. (Philippians 2:10-11, 1 Corinthians 15:24)
1. **Strategy**
2. Our enemies use \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 11).

Wiles: "craft, deceit" lie in wait (to deceive)

-Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary Of Old and New Testament Words

Wiles: A trick or stratagem practiced for ensnaring or deception; a sly, insidious artifice.

-Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary

1. The implication of our enemies' strategy is we believe a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ourselves.

"The problem with deception is that it's deceiving. You can believe that you are absolutely right and be completely wrong." - John Bevere's book Undercover

* It's only when we put on the armor and stand that we are transformed and come to know the truth of God's will (Romans 12:2).

**Conclusion**

* For the unsaved: The truth is the truth whether you believe and obey it or not. Heed God's words to win the battle and ultimately the war.
* For the disciple: 1 Peter 5:6-11