

Ephesians 6:24

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction. Text: Ephesians 6:24.

II. Parent-child relationships.

A. Do not provoke your children to anger.

B. Heavy handedness and well-intentioned neglect provoke children in this regard.

III. Employee-employer relationships.

A. Employees are to be submissive to their employers.

B. Their service is to be to the Lord—not as “eye-pleasers” to their boss.

C. Employers are not to use threats because their Master will hold them accountable.

IV. The attacks of the evil one.

A. Life is a battleground and we are exposed to attack from Satan, whose intent is to keep us from enjoying ourselves.

B. Our battle is not against people but wicked spirits in high places.

C. Ways Satan gets at us.

1. Directly through influence.

2. Indirectly through the world or the flesh.

a. The world is the doctrine of demons supplanted in among men.

b. The flesh is that old nature that has its seat in the body.

c. The world is composed of all the fleshly-minded people that insist on conformity.

3. The devil is our only enemy, but he can get at us in a variety of ways.

4. The devil is a liar and a murderer. (Luke 11)

a. His strategy is to destroy.

b. The way he destroys is through deception.

V. Strategy against Satan.

A. Put on the armor of God.

1. This is a figure of speech representing one's relationship with God.
2. The first three pieces of the armor describe what we have already done.
3. The second group describes what we are to do presently.
4. The enemy's objective is to make you afraid, discouraged, hostile and guilty.
5. Equipment.
 - a. Girding your loins with truth. When you are reading things through the truth in Jesus, you are seeing things as they actually are in reality.
 - b. The breastplate of righteousness. This covers the heart—God already loves you as fully as He possibly could.
 - c. Feet shod with peace. Peace between you and God removes all sense of fear.
 - d. Faith is a shield. This is the confidence that God will fulfill His promise against the momentary thoughts that make us wonder if Christianity is a big hoax after all. Go back to the facts of faith.
 - e. The hope of salvation is a helmet. When our minds are under attack, we must remind ourselves of this security.
 - f. The word of God is a sword. These passages remind us of God to steady us.

B. Pray.

1. Prayer releases powerful forces.
2. It is a way of countering the devil's invisible attacks in the world.

C. Stand firm.

1. Refuse to move having done everything else.
2. Stand steady—eventually the devil will flee you.
3. Do not panic.

VI. God calls us all to be faithful unto death fighting with spiritual weapons and not worldly means.

Application questions:

1. Why is it that all attacks against us must be attributed to Satan?

2. When is it appropriate to “stand firm” against Satan? What does this suggest about temptation?

3. What piece of the armor of God speaks to you the most today? Explain your choice.
