



THE GOOD FIGHT

The Good Fight – Part 3
The Gospel of Peace
Pastor Rich Harris
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USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so use the discussion questions as you see fit, but emphasize the relationships.

Key passage for this series:

Ephesians 6:11-13 (NIV)

Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God...

This week:

Ephesians 6:14-15 (NIV)

14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

"PEACE" = *Eirene*

Definition

I. of the Messiah's peace

A. the way that leads to peace (salvation)
II. of Christianity, the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is

Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV)

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

John 14:27 (NIV), (AMP)

27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. [Let My perfect peace calm you in every circumstance and give you courage and strength for every challenge.]

How Can We Stand on the Gospel of Peace?

1. We stand on the gospel of peace through faith (BELIEVE)

Romans 10:9 (NIV)

9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

a. You have to fix your thoughts

Philippians 4:8-9 (NLT)

8 ...Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. 9 Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.

b. You have to live with the end in mind

Revelation 20:10, 21:3-4 (NLT)

10 Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever...

3 I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

2. We stand on the gospel of peace by grace (RECEIVE)

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NLT)

8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. 9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

Romans 5:6 (NLT)

6 When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners.

Romans 16:20 (NLT)

*20 The God of **peace** will soon crush Satan under your feet. May the **grace** of our Lord Jesus be with you.*

Ephesians 6:13 (NIV)

¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

TALK IT THROUGH

1. How old is the oldest pair of shoes in your closet?
2. Read Ephesians 6:14-15 together. In the conversation of spiritual warfare armor, why do you think having our feet fit with readiness (strapped with preparation) that comes from the gospel of peace makes the list? Does it really matter where or how we stand in a fight?
 - Consider the contrast of foundations in Matthew 7:24-27.
3. The gospel of Jesus provides us with perfect peace, but we must apprehend it (strap it on) by faith. It's often said that the battle for peace begins and ends in our minds – our thoughts. The idea in scripture is what you're thinking on will determine what your feet are standing in. Read Philippians 4:6-8 together. When we find ourselves laden with negative or defeating thoughts, how can we get out of that trap? Share some victory stories within your group.
4. What difference can it make in your current battle to know that in the end you win? How does that change the way you look at today's struggle?
5. In a prolonged battle, the enemy will often get us to buy some lies. What are some common lies, and what are the truths we must remember? How does standing in the truth affect our peace of mind?

6. Read Romans 16:20 together. "Soon" can be tricky to define. It may mean, *in a minute*, or it could mean years. The present battle could be done tonight, or it may need us to stand a bit longer. Spend time praying for one another and the battles that are before you. Let's make sure no one fights alone.