



**The ARMOR of GOD**

**“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” (Eph. 6:11–12).**

A lion seeking to *devour* God's children  
(1 Peter 5:8).

A snake seeking to *deceive* God's people  
(2 Cor. 11:3).

A wolf seeking to *destroy* God's sheep  
(John 10:12).

**How are we to understand this struggle?**

**“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel”  
(Gen. 3:15).**

**This promise is fulfilled in three successive stages.**

## Stage #1: Christ's Death

**“He disarmed rulers and authorities and put them to open shame by triumphing over them in him” (Col. 2:15).**

## Stage #2: Christ's Exaltation

God “raised [him] from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion” (Eph. 1:20–22).

## Stage #3: Christ's Return

**“Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power” (1 Cor. 15:24).**



**It's this final act that Paul has in mind  
when he says, "The God of peace will  
soon crush Satan under your feet"  
(Rom. 16:20).**

Until then ...

We must be aware of his “designs”  
(2 Cor. 2:11).

**Until then ...**

**We must heed Paul's warning: "Give no opportunity to the devil" (Eph. 4:27).**



**Until then ...**

**We must “put on the whole armor of God”  
(Eph. 6:11).**

**“Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins” (Isa. 11:5).**

**“He put on righteousness as a  
breastplate, and a helmet of salvation  
on his head” (Isa. 59:17).**

***“As many of you as  
were baptized into  
Christ have put on  
Christ” (Gal. 3:27).***





Christ is the *agent*  
by which this baptism occurs.

The Holy Spirit is the *element*  
in which this baptism occurs.

Identity in “one body” is the *purpose*  
for which this baptism occurs.

**We “have put on Christ.” → Positional**

**We must “put on Christ.” → Practical**



The Belt of Truth:  
Overcoming Hypocrisy with Sincerity

The **ARMOR** of **GOD**

**“He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth” (1 Peter 2:22).**

**What is truth?**

**“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).**



**“For the law was given through Moses;  
grace and truth came through Jesus  
Christ” (John 1:17).**

**“And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life” (1 John 5:20).**

**We must follow the truth (Christ) in  
*creed and conduct.***



**“This people honors me with their lips,  
but their heart is far from me”  
(Matt. 15:8).**

**“You outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness” (Matt. 23:28).**

**“The sin of hypocrisy will take hold  
when other sins leave a person.”**

**William Perkins**

**We will desist from drunkenness, deceit,  
theft, idolatry, immorality, and a host of  
other sins while secretly holding tight to  
the sin of hypocrisy.**



The reason is simple: Hypocrisy is rooted in pride, which births an insatiable desire for praise and esteem.



**“The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith” (1 Tim. 1:5).**

**(1) We remember that God knows our hearts.**

**“The LORD searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought”  
(1 Chron. 28:9).**

(2) We remember that God judges our hearts.

“God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil” (Eccl. 12:14).

**(3) We humble ourselves before God.**

**“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and  
he will exalt you” (James 4:10).**

The question is not whether hypocrisy exists within us. It does. The question is whether it reigns freely within us.

**Do we grieve over it, repent of it, and  
fight against it?**

**Do we bring it to the cross and behold our  
precious Savior bearing our many sins,  
specifically our sin of hypocrisy?**

**Do we long to remove the masks?**



**“Through your precepts I get  
understanding; therefore, I hate  
every false way” (Ps. 119:104).**

**Do I hate every false way?**

**“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs  
is the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 5:3).**

**Am I poor in spirit?**

**“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt. 6:21).**

**Is Christ my greatest treasure?**

**“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Matt. 6:33).**

**Is my heart truly set upon heaven?**

**“So I always take pains to have a clear  
conscience toward both God and man”  
(Acts 24:16).**

**Do I have a conscience void of offense  
toward God and man?**

**“For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being” (Rom. 7:22).**

**Do I genuinely delight in God’s law?**

**“If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen”  
(1 John 4:20).**

**Do I love my brother?**



The Breastplate of Righteousness:  
Overcoming Iniquity with Purity

The **ARMOR** of **GOD**



**“But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1 John 2:1).**

**“You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matt. 5:48).**

We are perfect in terms of *justification*  
because God reckons Christ's  
righteousness to us.

We're perfect in terms of *sanctification* because God regenerates us, and thus we possess in principle what will one day be ours in completion.

**Together, these two constitute true  
righteousness.**

**“I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 5:19–20).**

They seek “to establish their own [righteousness]” and refuse to “submit to God’s righteousness” (Rom. 10:3). God’s righteousness is Christ:

- The purity of His humanity
- The obedience of His life
- The merit of His suffering

**This righteousness is made ours through  
faith alone.**

**Now, we express our love for God in  
seeking to obey Him in sincerity of heart.**

**In that way, our righteousness exceeds  
that of the scribes and Pharisees.**



# Justification



-1-

**We must obey God's law,  
to be right with Him.**

-2-

**We can't obey God's law;  
therefore, we're condemned.**

-3-

**We must obey God's law  
in the person of a Mediator.**

-4-

**We become one with the  
Mediator through faith.**

Faith is God's gift whereby we know Christ and apply Christ. We believe He is really ours.

Such faith justifies because it's the instrument whereby we apprehend Christ.



-5-

God justifies us.



**God accepts the Mediator's death  
as if it were ours.**

**God accepts the Mediator's obedience  
as if it were ours.**

**“Blessed is the one whose transgression  
is forgiven, whose sin is covered.  
Blessed is the man against whom the  
Lord counts no iniquity”  
(Ps. 32:1–2; Rom. 4:7–8).**

**We obey in the light of Christ's  
perfect obedience.**

*Legal* obedience

vs.

*Evangelical* obedience

# Sanctification



**“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Gal. 2:20).**

**The key to the Christian life is:**

**(1) believing Christ was crucified for me**

**(2) believing I've been crucified with Him**

**(3) seeing myself hanging on the cross**

**(4) living accordingly**



**“You also must consider yourselves dead  
to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus”  
(Rom. 6:11).**

**“Be killing sin or it will be killing you.”**

**John Owen**

**“My little children, for whom I am  
again in the anguish of childbirth  
until Christ is formed in you!”  
(Gal. 4:19).**

**-1-**

**Conformed to His death**

**I.e., willing to die to sin and temptation**

-2-

Conformed to His life

I.e., willing to submit all of life  
to the Word

-3-

Conformed to His suffering

I.e., willing to suffer humbly  
and joyfully

-4-

Conformed to His character

I.e., willing to put on the mind of Christ  
(the fruit of the Spirit)