**Stand Firm Together (3/17/24)**

**Discussion Questions**

**Summary:** As we conclude our series on connecting we study the armor of God. The exhortation here is to “Be strong *in the Lord*” (Eph. 6:10) not in our own knowledge or strength; and to stand firm with other believers, since all the verbs are plural imperatives. Paul gives three reasons to stand firm together and seven practical ways to stand firm, with the memorable image of armor on a regiment of soldiers. Come be reminded of all we have in Christ to endure to the end, together.

**Stand Firm Together**

Ephesians 6:10-18

*“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil… and having done all, to stand firm.”* Ephesians 6:10-11,13

**Why Stand Firm Together:**

* Because the devil is Crafty (v. 11)
* Because Spiritual Warfare is real (v. 12)
* Because Tribulation is coming (v. 13; Jn. 16:33)

**How to Stand Firm Together:**

1. Tighten your Commitment to Jesus,
   * He is the Truth (v. 14a)
2. Entrust yourself Fully to Jesus
   * He is your Righteousness (v. 14b)
3. Clarify your understanding of the Work of Jesus
   * He is your Peace (v. 15)
4. Hold fast to Jesus in Faith
   * He is your Protection (v. 16)
5. Renew your Mind in Jesus
   * He is your Salvation (v. 17a)
6. Sharpen your knowledge of the Word of Jesus
   * He is your Strength (v. 17b)
7. Draw close to Jesus in Prayer
   * He is your Life (v. 18)

**Get Started:**

1. What is your favorite war movie or book? Why?
2. What does that story illustrate about the importance of standing firm *together*, as a cohesive unit?

**Dig In:** Read Ephesians 6:10-20

1. What stands out to you in this passage?
2. What reasons does Paul give for believers to stand firm together (v. 10-13)?
3. What resources (armor) that Paul lists do you find most encouraging and helpful right now? Why? (v. 14-18)
4. Why do you think Paul chose the analogy of armor to make this point?

**Move Forward:**

1. Clearly one of the main applications of this passage is to pray (v. 18) and to especially pray for each other. So let’s spend some extra time today praying for each other and for our church using the armor of God as an outline and guide for our prayers. (In other words, instead of taking time to share prayer requests, use that time to pray the pieces of armor over each other.)