



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

# Righteous Body Armor

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## I. Stand (Eph. 6:11, 13, 14)

- “‘To stand or to offer resistance to’. The term is used ‘to denote **that which lasts and is stable**, not subject to change or decay.’ The one who stands is **not pushed around but firmly holds his or her position**. In terms of warfare, it [implies] to hold one’s ground.” (H. Hoehner, Ephesians, p. 823)

## II. Body Armor/Breastplate of Righteousness(Eph. 6:14b)

### III. What Kind of Righteousness is it?

A. It isn’t self-righteousness (Phil. 3:9; Isa. 64:6)

B. It isn’t merely imputed righteousness (Rom. 4:6, 11; 2 Cor. 5:21)

– “Paul does not say ‘that...we might **know** the righteousness of God,’ nor ‘that...we might **believe** the righteousness of God,’ or even ‘that...we might **receive** the righteousness of God.’ Instead the church is to ‘**become** the righteousness of God’: where the church embodies in its life together the world-reconciling love of Jesus Christ, the new creation is manifest. **The church incarnates the righteousness of God.**” [Richard B. Hays, *Moral Vision of the NT*, p. 24]

C. It is also practical or ethical righteousness (Eph. 5:8b-9; Matt. 6:1-18)

– “There are **two prominent views** regarding the nature of the righteousness referred to by the breastplate. The first view posits an **external righteousness to the believer by imputation** of Christ’s righteousness. The second view posits an **internal righteousness of the believer that consists of virtue**... After examining the metaphor of the ‘armor of God’ and the context in Ephesians, it is argued that **the breastplate is ethical, consisting of virtues that reflect Christ.**” [D. H. Wenkel, “Breastplate of Righteousness,” *Tyndale Bull.*, V. 58.2, pp. 275-6]

– “Righteousness means right living—the process by which we apply this truth to our lives and, by His Spirit, produce conduct honoring and pleasing to God.” [Priscilla Shirer, *Fervent: A Woman’s Battle Plan*, p. 47]

## D. Righteousness follows truth

- “*Truth provides the [framework]; righteousness paints the picture.*” (Priscilla Shirer, p. 69)
- “*To put on the breastplate of righteousness means that Christians are to **reflect the righteous character of God in their actions.***” [K. Snodgrass, *Ephesians*, p. 342]

**IV. God the Warrior (Isa. 59:15b-17)**

A. In our human condition we cannot escape from ourselves (Isa. 59:1-3)

B. Our lament and confession (Isa. 59:9a, 11b, 12-15a)

C. There is ‘no man’ to turn things around (Isa. 59:15b-16)

- “*This is an incredible commentary on the Old Testament. There is no man on the scene to be the image of God and rule creation in the wisdom and power of God.*” (Tim Mackie, *Ephesians Classroom*)

D. God the Warrior moved (Isa. 59:17)

**V. God Calls Us To Be ‘That Man’ (Eph. 2:13-15, 18; 4:1, 17, 22; 5:1, 8b)**

- “*Isaiah 59:17 refers to God putting on his attribute of righteousness as a breastplate. Likewise, in (Ephesians 6) believers are, by appropriating God’s righteousness, to act righteously in their daily dealings with God and humankind.*” (H. Hoehner)

A. The new man, new humanity was created in Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:13-15, 18)

B. God gives us responsibility as ‘that man’ (Eph. 3:10; 6:11, 13-14)

C. Living righteously is to take up the body armor (Eph. 4:1-6:9)

- “*As a soldier’s breastplate protected his chest from enemy attacks, so sanctifying righteous living guards believers’ hearts against assaults of the devil.*” (H. Hoehner)