

Our Adversary the Devil

Discussion Questions for Ephesians 6:11

Paul has already mentioned “the Devil” in Ephesians (4:27). His Greek title, Diabolos, means “slanderer.” He opposes. He accuses. “Satan” in Hebrew means “adversary.” Consider some other titles:

- “The Devil” (Matt 4:1; 13:39; 25:41; Rev 12:9; 20:2)
- Satan is head of the demons and his minions (Eph 6:12; also Job 1:6; Luke 11:18).
- “The serpent” (Gen 3:1, 14; 2 Cor 11:3; Rev 12:9; 20:2)
- “Beelzebul” (Matt 10:25; 12:24, 27; Luke 11:15)
- “The ruler of this world” (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11)
- “The god of this age” (2 Cor 4:4)
- “The evil one” (Matt 13:19; 1 John 2:13)
- “The dragon” (Rev 12:9)

His various names display the fact that he is wicked, powerful, and cunning.

Why might some scoff at this passage about warfare? How would you respond?

How does Paul summarize many ideas from the previous chapters with this final section on the armor of God?

How is “standing” significant in literal warfare? What does Paul’s frequent use of “stand” signify in spiritual warfare?

From where do Christians derive strength? How do we do so?

Explain the nature and work of the enemy, based on this passage.

What are some other characteristics of our enemy?

What is a healthy perspective for Christians to have regarding the devil and spiritual warfare? What is an unhealthy one?

What is Paul’s counsel in verse 11 (also in verse 13) for engaging in the struggle defined in verse 12?

Why do we often find it difficult to take a stand and remain firm?

Ephesians 6:11 speaks about 'the schemes of the devil'. Look up 2 Corinthians 11:13–15; Genesis 3:2; Luke 4:1–12 and describe the tactics he uses:

Four times in verses 11–14 Paul urges his readers to stand firm in the battle against the devil. How are we susceptible to instability as Christians?

Paul may have been drawing from the Divine Warrior motif of the Old Testament. As we see in Isaiah 59:14–21, the Lord puts on armor. Why does Paul instruct the Ephesian believers to put on the armor of God?