

## **The Full Armor of God**

Ephesians 4 - 6

by Don Falkos

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Those called as leaders must equip the rest of us to be mature in the Lord, speaking the truth in love, and growing to be more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. There is one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is over all, through all, and in all. If each of us does our part, the whole body will be healthy.

Give up deception and lust. Stop telling lies. Don't let anger control you. If you're a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for work that will benefit others. Get rid of bitterness and anger. Instead, be kind to each other, forgiving one another, just as God has forgiven us. Live in love, just as Christ loves us. As for sexual immorality, impurity, greed, obscene stories, foolish talk, coarse jokes, or any type of evil behavior – these have no place among God's people.

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ – wives to husbands, husbands to wives, children to parents, slaves to masters, and masters to slaves. Serve each other as if you were serving the Lord himself, and remember – we all serve the same Master, the Lord, who shows no favoritism.

Dress yourself in the full armor of God. Put on truth as a belt, righteousness as a breastplate; wear the good news of peace as shoes, salvation as a helmet; raise your shield of faith; and take up the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Then you'll be ready for whatever spiritual warfare comes your way.