

Let's Show America Great Again

FIGHT LIKE YOU BELONG

Ephesians 6:9-18

For the past decade or so, Scotiabank has been using the slogan *You're Richer than You Think*. Whether or not it's good financial advice, it does a good job of summarizing the message of Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

Here's one way to summarize that message: *As a citizen of God's kingdom, you are richer than you think. So go ahead and spend ... spend your life like you're a child of the king. Then watch and see what the king does for you and through you. Expect to see His kingdom come to earth. Oh ... and expect to face some opposition along the way.*

Starting with 120 people and growing to more than six million within a few hundred years, the first few generations of Christians managed to overturn and transform the Roman Empire, one of the most powerful empires in human history. How did they do it? *They did it by taking the message of Ephesians to heart.*

The first readers of Paul's letter weren't revolutionaries out to overturn any empire. They were just wondering how to survive as followers of Christ and whether their faith was worth the hardship it brought them. Paul wrote his letter to encourage them and instruct them. Little did they know that what he wrote contained a formula for a powerful, transformative life, one that has the power to overturn human empires and bring the kingdom of God to earth. That formula has three parts.

KNOW WHERE YOU BELONG – Eph. 1-3

Eph. 1:18 spells out the main goal of the first three chapters of Paul's letter: *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know the hope to which he has called you.*

LIVE LIKE YOU BELONG – Eph. 4:1-6:9

Eph. 4:1 spells out the Paul's main goal for the next two and half chapters: *As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.*

FIGHT LIKE YOU BELONG – Eph. 6:10-18

When people see us living like citizens of God's kingdom, some will be attracted and join us. Others will oppose us. Some will even set out to stop us. They will try to rob us of the hope that drives us. How do we face opposition?

- **By Resting in the Victory of God – v. 10**
- **By Relying on the Armour of God – v. 11**
- **By Realizing Who the Real Enemy is – v. 12**
- **By Remembering to Put on the *Entire* Armour – vv. 13-18**

In July we'll be coming back to Ephesians 6 to look at each part of the armour individually. You'll be challenged to memorize Ephesians 6:9-20. Why not start now?