

Eph. 6:10-13
"Evil, No Fairytale"

There is much in scripture that we are comfortable wrapping our minds around. Such as, God's love, God's forgiveness, and God's mercy. Subject matters like these put us at ease. Then there are those things in scripture we wrestle with because of their plausibility and one such subject matter is evil and all that comes with it. Particularly, Satan, demons, and hell. Our advanced culture has led many in the church to relegate such things to folklore. And since it is folklore no need to give much energy to such talk. Many have concluded we are too advanced of a culture to believe such things. Well, I caution us from taking such a position. If it is in scripture, we best take it very seriously. Does not matter how plausible it may seem. Jesus took evil very seriously; his apostles took it very seriously and so did the early church. Why would we see it any differently? **Evil, all that is opposed to God -the absence of good, is very real.** It is no fairytale. With this said, drawing from our text I want to share three things regarding evil we need to know if we are to stand against it.

First, evil is an organized spiritual enterprise. V10-11 "A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil." Evil, like any enterprise, has a head, a mission, and resources to carry out that mission. Evil's head is Satan. Satan is evil's chief strategist, and it wouldn't please him more than for us to take him lightly or to discount him all together or to be overly concerned about him. Let us notice the limits of his power as noted in the text. Paul says stand firm

against his strategies. Satan holds no power over us. If evil takes hold of us, it is because we allow it to do so, not because Satan has the power to make us. Satan is limited in his power, but he remains a formidable foe. And regarding evils mission, it is torment. And torment is the business of his fallen angels, better known as demons. Satan wants nothing more than for human beings to end up where he and his demons have already been condemned to eternally, hell. Evil is an organized spiritual enterprise, and it is not to be taken lightly. We are to believe in it and guard against it.

Rev. 12:9 “⁹This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels.”

Matt 16:18 “¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Matt 41:4 “⁴¹“Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, ‘Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons.’”

1 Peter 5:8-9a “⁸Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith.”

Second, evil, no different than the gospel of Jesus Christ, needs humans to propagate it. V12-13 “¹²For we are not fighting

against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

¹³Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle

you will still be standing firm.” Just like the kingdom of God, the forces of evil need us, human beings, to carry forth its mission. The spiritual realm needs flesh and blood to bring about its purposes in the physical realm. Satan and his demons only accomplish that which we allow them to accomplish through us. Evil persists because humanity carries it forward. I’ll say again, if evil takes hold of us, it is because we allow it to do so, not because Satan has the power to make us.

2 Cor 11:13-15 “¹³These people are false apostles. They are deceitful workers who disguise themselves as apostles of Christ.¹⁴ But I am not surprised! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵So it is no wonder that his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. In the end they will get the punishment their wicked deeds deserve.”

Eph 4:26-27 “²⁶And “don’t sin by letting anger control you.” Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷for anger gives a foothold to the devil.”

John 8:44 “⁴⁴For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

Does not matter the situation. Either you are an instrument of God or an instrument of the evil one. There is no Switzerland, spiritually.

Finally, evil’s remedy is not found in human ingenuity. V10-11, 13a “A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to

stand firm against all strategies of the devil...¹³ Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil." It is very foolish of us to see the ravages of evil and to say we, by our own ingenuity, can fix it. To relegate evil to nothing more than bad policy in need of better policy is the result of the arrogance of fallen humanity and only serves to prop up evil. The remedy to evil is Jesus and only Jesus! **1 John 5:18-20** "¹⁸ We know that God's children do not make a practice of sinning, for God's Son holds them securely, and the evil one cannot touch them. ¹⁹ We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the control of the evil one. ²⁰ And we know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we can know the true God. And now we live in fellowship with the true God because we live in fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ. He is the only true God, and he is eternal life."

Church, **evil, all that is opposed to God -the absence of good, is very real.** It is no fairytale. Do not allow yourself to be blinded to this fact. In doing so, you become easy prey. You become evil's instrument. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.