

WALK WISELY FOR CHRIST

Lesson Aim: To teach believers that they must know the Word of God to walk wisely in Christ.

Suggestion: Have the students read the Scriptures and answer the questions in the student lesson and insert the questions below where they fit your lesson for class discussion.

Introduction: Christians need to know the Word of God and obey it to walk wisely in their homes (6:1-4), in their work places (6:5-9) and in the world where they will engage in spiritual warfare against the Devil (6:10-20). "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom" (Col 3:16).

Why is the home so important to God? 6:1-4.

God wants the Christian home to be a place where children are trained to respect and obey Him. This training begins by teaching them to respect and obey their parents. God gives the promise of well-being and long life to children who learn to submit and obey their parents. Fathers are specifically instructed how to treat their children and train them in the discipline ("nurture" in KJV) and admonition of the Lord (6:4). Satan knows the power of a godly home against his rule of the earth and he will do whatever he can to destroy it.

How can fathers (and mothers) provoke their children to be angry? 6:4

Parents make their children angry when they lose control of themselves and spank them harshly, when they do not keep their promises to them, when they discipline for an offense one day and not the next day, when they do not live by the rules that they give them and when they favor one child over another. These are some ways that parents can provoke their children to be angry.

How are Christians to live in the workplace? 6:5-9

God wants Christians to have a good testimony for Him in the workplace. Paul addressed the slaves and their masters in this letter, but the principles are applicable to employees and employers of today's society. God wants Christian employees to be honest and diligent; He wants Christian employers to be fair and gracious. Christians must learn to please God in their work. God will reward them, even if their employer is bad, but they will suffer the consequences, if they do not do good work (6:8, 9). They must learn that it is more important to "please God with their work than men. Christian employers must treat their employees as they would want God to treat them. He will be impartial with them. Beware; Satan will attack Christians in the workplace to ruin their testimony for God.

How can Christians be sure of victory in their warfare against Satan? 6:10, 13

Christians are commanded to be strong in the power of the Lord (1:19-22; 3:16, 20). They must not trust in any other power or it will bring defeat. Satan is very strong. They also are commanded to put on the whole armor of God. Any piece that is missing is where Satan will attack.

What armor does God provide Christians to protect them from Satan's attacks? 6:13-17

The armor includes the belt of truth (honesty - Eph 4:25), the breastplate of righteousness (godly living which is produced by faith in Christ and demonstrated by love - 1 Thes 5:8), the shoes of the gospel of peace (the gospel of peace prepares them for the conflict), the shield of faith (faith that quenches the fiery temptations of the wicked one - 1 Jn 5:4,5), the helmet of salvation (hope or assurance of salvation - 1 Thes 5:8), and the sword of the Spirit (the living Word of God which cuts two ways: to convict and convert; or to condemn and constrain in hell - Heb 4:12; Isa 11:4). Christians must not take off any piece of their armor. They will need every piece in their battle against Satan.

What must Christians do as good warriors for God? 6:18-20

Christians need to keep in constant communication with God through prayer and supplication in the Spirit in their battle against Satan. Soldiers cannot be effective when they are out-of-touch with their commander. The same is true of Christian soldiers. They must be alert, persevere and pray, not only for themselves, but also for the needs of all Christian soldiers. Paul especially requested prayer for himself that he might know what to say in his witness and be bold in his witness as an ambassador for Jesus Christ. Christians must keep in contact with God through prayer. It is vital in their warfare against Satan.