

MARRIAGE BY THE BOOK

1. THE BELT OF TRUTH... GOD'S WORD

Ephesians 6:14a (NASB) Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH

Ephesians 6:14a (NLT) Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth

A. The FIRST piece of ARMOR in the believer's arsenal is "THE BELT of TRUTH"

B. What Paul is picturing in Ephesians 6:14a is that the BELT OF TRUTH is designed to STABILIZE things by keeping them in their PROPER ORDER.

PICTURE a ROMAN SOLDIER in BIBLICAL TIMES.

1. He might hang his SWORD or DAGGER on his BELT.

2. When it got time to get serious with work or move into BATTLE, the Roman soldier would lift his robe and TUCK IT UNDERNEATH his BELT.

3. BELTS produce STABILITY by HOLDING THINGS IN PLACE.

a. SHIRT

b. PANTS

4. The BELT OF TRUTH is DESIGNED to STABILIZE THINGS by KEEPING THEM IN THEIR PROPER ORDER.

a. WITHOUT TRUTH THERE IS NO ORDER OR STABILITY... THERE IS DISORDER AND CONFUSION.

C. There are only TWO CHOICES when it comes to TRUTH. Either...

1. We will BELIEVE what we PERCEIVE TO BE THE TRUTH...

2. Or, we will EMBRACE and BELIEVE GOD'S TRUTH... HIS WORD.

D. REMEMBER: E V E R Y T H I N G about Satan is a LIE, and he uses his LIES to CREATE CONFUSION and DISORDER.

John 8:44 (NASB) "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

1. One of the PRIMARY PLACES Satan seeks to DISTORT TRUTH is in our RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. He wants our RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD to be a CHARADE rather than a SPIRITUAL REALITY... RELIGION vs RELATIONSHIP.

John 4:24 (NASB) "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

E. HOWEVER, E V E R Y T H I N G about GOD IS TRUTH.

1. Numbers 23:19 (NASB) "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"

2. John 17:14-17 (NASB) "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. "I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. "They are not of

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the world, even as I am not of the world. "Sanctify them in the truth; **Your word is truth**".

3. **John 14:6 (NASB)** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and **the truth**, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

F. **WHY... DO WE NEED TO PUT ON THE "BELT of TRUTH"?**

1. **BECAUSE... THE ONLY WAY TO "STAND" AGAINST A LIAR OR A DECEIVER IS WITH THE TRUTH!**
2. **REMEMBER... satan will keep coming at us with his LIES as long as they WORK!**
 - a. **STORYTIME:** SCRAGGLY man late night at your front door demanding \$5.00. If you give in, he'll **BE BACK** the next night, and as long as **THE LIE WORKS!**
 - b. But if you say, "Get out of here or I'll call a **HIGHER AUTHORITY (911)**" **HE WILL FLEE.**
 - c. That's the way satan works... and **HE WILL KEEP IT UP UNTIL WE CALL ON A HIGHER AUTHORITY ... GOD'S WORD, "THE BELT OF TRUTH" BUCKLED AROUND OUR WAIST!**
3. If **GOD'S TRUTH** is that **IMPORTANT**, you can be sure satan will make you **TOO BUSY TO STUDY OR MEMORIZE GOD'S WORD!**

G. **THE SOLUTION: ONLY GOD is the AUTHOR AND ORIGINATOR OF TRUTH. KNOWING HIM and HIS WORD is the ONLY WAY to KNOW HOW to FUNCTION WITH THE BELT OF TRUTH because ONLY GOD CAN DEFINE TRUTH.**

1. **DISCUSS: WHAT IS TRUTH?**
 - a. The devil doesn't want you to **KNOW THE TRUTH** because **THE TRUTH is the ONE thing that can set you FREE.**
John 8:32 (NASB) and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
 - b. **STORYTIME:**
 - 1) **PSYCHOLOGIST** said, "Working with people, I've learned that truth is what you **FEEL** it to be."
 - 2) **ACCOUNTANT** said, "Working with accounts, I've learned that truth is what you **NEED** it to be."
 - 3) **LAWYER** offered, "Working in the justice system, I've learned that truth is what you **WANT** it to be."

H. **QUESTION: HOW will you DETERMINE what YOU BELIEVE to be TRUTH?**

1. Your **EMOTIONS?**... which are **CONSTANTLY CHANGING?**
2. Your **INTELLIGENCE?**... which is **FINITE?**
3. Your **MORAL INSTINCTS?**... which **DIFFER?**

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4. What your **FRIENDS** and **FAMILY** THINK?
 5. What the **MEDIA** says?
 6. Or, will it be **DIVINE REVELATION**?
 - I. We must **EXCHANGE** our **EMOTIONS, INTELLIGENCE, MORAL INSTINCTS, WHAT OUR FRIENDS THINK, and WHAT THE MEDIA SAYS** for **GOD'S TRUTH... IF WE HOPE TO BE VICTORIOUS IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE!**
 1. **REMEMBER**, Satan seeks to set up **SPECULATIONS** (wrong thoughts) that **CONTRADICT GOD'S TRUTH**.
 - J. **IT IS IMPERATIVE FOR CHRISTIANS TO KNOW THE WORD OF GOD TO EXPERIENCE VICTORY IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE!**
2. **PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF "THE BELT OF TRUTH"**
- A. **MEMORIZE, MEDITATE ON, AND QUOTE SCRIPTURE**
 1. ... "Quote scripture into the fabric of life" – Jobe Martin
 - B. **Quote scripture at the moment the thought comes in your mind:**

2 Corinthians 10:5 (NASB) *We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,*

 1. **ANGER... James 1:19-20 (NASB77)** This you know, my beloved brethren. But let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak and **slow to anger**; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.
 2. **FEAR... 2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV)** For God has not given us a spirit of **fear**, but of power and love and discipline.
 3. **REBELLION... Proverbs 17:11 (NASB)** A **rebellious** man seeks only evil, So a cruel messenger will be sent against him.
 4. **NO FEAR OF GOD... Matthew 10:28 (NASB)** "Do not **fear** those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather **fear Him** who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.
 5. **JUDGMENTAL SPIRIT... James 4:12 (NASB)** There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but **who are you who judge** your neighbor?
 6. **UNFORGIVENESS... Matthew 6:14-15 (NASB)** "For if you **forgive** others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father **will also forgive** you. "But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will **not forgive** your transgressions.
 7. **CRITICISM... James 5:9 (NASB)** Do not **complain**, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.
 8. **SELFISHNESS... James 3:16 (NASB)** For where jealousy and **selfish** ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.
 9. **PRIDE... James 4:6-7 (NASB)** But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, "**GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.**" Submit therefore

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to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. **Proverbs 16:18 (NASB)** Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before stumbling.

10. CONTROL = OPPOSITE OF FAITH... **James 1:6-8 (NASB)** But he must ask in faith **without any doubting**, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a **double-minded man**, unstable in all his ways. **Mark 9:20-24 (NASB)** They brought the boy to Him. When he saw Him, immediately the spirit threw him into a convulsion, and falling to the ground, he *began* rolling around and foaming *at the mouth*. And He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. "It has often thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!" And Jesus said to him, " 'If You can?' All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, "**I do believe; help my unbelief.**"

11. PORNOGRAPHY/LUST... **1 John 2:15-16 (NASB)** Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the **lust of the flesh** and the **lust of the eyes** and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. **Job 31:1 (NLT)** "I made a **covenant with my eyes** not to look with lust at a young woman.