

A NEWSTORY CHURCH SERIES

SPIRITUAL WARFARE



Pastor Tom Kang

Part 3: Breastplate of Righteousness

Icebreaker: Who is the most righteous person that you know? When you think of the word “righteous”, does that have a positive or negative connotation for you?

1. Last Sunday, Pastor Tom explained how the Belt of Truth is meant to guard us at our very core. Take some time to look at the **7 Cornerstones of a Biblical Worldview** from Barna Research Group. What is your personal response to the following statements? Keep in mind the stats shared: 10% of Boomers, 7% of Gen X, 6% of Millennials & 4% of Gen Z have a Biblical Worldview.

1. An orthodox, biblical understanding of God.
2. All human beings are sinful by nature; every choice we make has moral considerations and consequences.
3. Knowing Jesus Christ is the only means to salvation, through our confession of sin and reliance on His forgiveness.
4. The entire Bible is true, reliable, and relevant, making it the best moral guide for every person, in all situations.
5. Absolute moral truth exists—and those truths are defined by God, described in the Bible, and are unchanging across time and cultures.
6. The ultimate purpose of human life is to know, love, and serve God with all your heart, mind, strength, and soul.
7. Success on earth is best understood as consistent obedience to God—in thoughts, words, and actions.

2. Take some time to discuss **imputed righteousness**, as shared about in the sermon. Some scripture references to study: Romans 3:10, 1 Peter 2:24, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Romans 4:23-25. What do you think about this theological term and how has it impacted you?

3. In Ephesians 6:14, we are introduced to the second piece of armor, the **breastplate of righteousness**. How does this piece of armor complement the **belt of truth**? Discuss how these two pieces of armor might be helpful in our battle with the spiritual realm.

4. In the 1600s, someone warned the Puritan preacher, John Bunyan, “If you always tell people that God loves them, they will do whatever they want.” Bunyan replied, “No. If you always tell God’s people, that God loves them ... they will do whatever God wants.”

“Righteousness is the outcome of a person’s spiritual relationship with God; it is not just the mere rightness of actions.” - Oswald Chambers

How have you seen your relationship with God result in righteousness? Share a story about how that has looked in everyday life, as well as any tensions you’ve experienced in that.

5. What are some practical ways to guard your **heart**? Share about any struggles you’ve experienced with protecting your heart from the attacks of the evil one.