Ephesians 6:12-13

2/12/18

A Different Kind of Warfare

Read Ephesians 6:12-13. When a commander of a military unit deploys his troops to do battle with the enemy, he first assesses the opponent's strength and position. He also takes note of the lighting conditions, the weather, and terrain to determine the enemy's vulnerabilities as well as his own. He identifies the kinds of weapons he will be up against. He plans his maneuvers to limit his own exposure to harm and to increase the effectiveness of his offensive actions.

Can you imagine what it would be like if this captain took his men into battle without gathering this kind of intelligence? He would suffer almost certain defeat.

Unfortunately, many Christians go into battle with a similar lack of preparation. We not only don't know anything about the forces that are arrayed against us, we can even forget we are at war. It should be no surprise that so many of us wander into spiritual minefields and are astounded to discover the variety and magnitude of traps that have been set for us. And, many of us don't realize that we are his target until we take a wrong step.

The good news is that the section of Scripture we just read gives us the intelligence information that we need to make adequate preparation. We are told that our enemy isn't flesh and blood. Rather our fight is against the rulers, authorities, cosmic powers, and spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Our conventional strategies, tactics, and weaponry will not be effective against such adversaries. We will need instead: the whole armor of God.

1. What are some of the ramifications of our failure to recognize that we are in a war or to incorrectly identify and assess our adversary?

2. According to these verses, what is the primary purpose of the armor we will wear? Why do you think it is important for us to understand this?

3. What are some issues we commonly face that tend to distract us from focusing on our true enemy? What happens when we allow our weapons to be used against the wrong targets or for the wrong purposes?