

SERMON NOTES:

The Right Fight: Ephesians 6:10-21

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Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places

Ephesians 6:11-13

We do not wage war according to human standards; for the weapons of our warfare are not merely human, but they have divine power to destroy strongholds.

We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to obey Christ

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

Ye have heard it said of old that thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thine enemy. But I say to you love your enemies. Bless them that curse you. Do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that despitefully use you, that ye may be children of your

Father which is in heaven

Matthew 5:43-45; Luke 6:27-28

Outline of a sermon delivered by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Detroit, March 7, 1961: "Loving Your Enemies" (*available online: search King, title, date*)

. . . Love means . . .

1. The power to forgive
2. Seeing the image of God in the other
3. knowing your own internal conflicts and moral weakness
4. refusing to humiliate or crush your opponent
5. being the first to break the downward spiral of hate
6. not allowing hatred to damage our own souls, or the soul of our nation
7. but allowing love – including our willingness to suffer– to be God's agent of transformation.
8. This is the meaning of the cross
9. This is the meaning of the Christian form of true power – entering a fight in which we put on the whole armor of God, remembering that we do not fight against flesh and blood but against the wiles of the devil.

Dr King's Prayer

Oh God, our gracious heavenly Father, we thank Thee for the inspiration of Jesus the Christ. And grant that we will love Thee with all of our hearts, souls, and minds, and love our neighbors as we love ourselves, even our "enemy neighbors." And we ask Thee, Oh God, in these days of emotional tension, when the problems of the world are gigantic in extent and chaotic in detail, to be with us in our going out and our coming in, in our rising up and in our lying down, in our moments of joy and in our moments of sorrow, until the day when there shall be no sunset and no dawning. Amen.