

Knowing that one of our enemy's strategies is to divide and conquer,
walk in unity as we stand together against him

1. Understanding who your enemy is _____ is essential to engaging in spiritual battle

Ephesians 6:12a

2. Understanding how your enemy _____ is essential to engaging in battle

Ephesians 6:12

"This fourfold description is not intended to indicate that four (or seven if we include those mentioned in 1:21) categories of demonic spirits exist. The different terms point to the same reality, and any attempts to rank them is pure speculation. The relationship of these powers to the devil is not specifically spelled out, but the context closely allies them with him: they belong to 'this darkness' and are called 'spiritual forces of evil'. They are under the power of the evil one and form a united front. In fact, v. 12 may be an expansion of the reference to the 'devil's schemes' in v. 11. These spiritual authorities are not represented as acting independently of the devil, but as his agents they share with him common objectives and strategies. Certainly, Paul does not present a different strategy for resisting the powers in contrast to how they would resist the devil. The assumption is that they have 'a common nature, objective, and method of attack, which necessitates the believer to depend on the power of God to resist them'."

Peter T. O'Brien, The Pillar New Testament Commentary – The Letter to the Ephesians.

To reject the identification of the powers with human traditions and sociopolitical structures, however, is not to deny that these supernatural intelligences work through such agencies; after all, the New Testament speaks of the whole world lying in the power of the evil one. Satan and his hosts exist for the purpose of bringing their evil and destructive influences to bear on the world and humanity at every level . . . Social, political, judicial, and economic structures can be used by Satan and his evil authorities to serve their malevolent ends.

Peter T. O'Brien, The Pillar New Testament Commentary – The Letter to the Ephesians.

Neil Shenvi lecture:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E33aunwGQQ4&feature=youtu.be>

Alisa Childers Podcast #72 – *Race, Injustice, and the Gospel of Critical Race Theory, With Monique Duson*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FwyJk1G_Dm0

3. Understanding your objective is essential to _____ your Commander

Ephesians 6:12-13

We are not urged to win the victory; rather, to withstand the devil's insidious wiles and to stand firm, a posture that will involve both defensive and offensive positions . . . Believers live in the overlap of the ages, between the 'already' and the 'not yet'. Christ is already seated in the heavenly places far above every rule and authority; God has placed all things under his feet (1:21, 22), and we have been raised and made to sit with him (2:5, 6). But Christians need to appropriate what has been won for them, and in the present context this means putting on the armor of God and standing firm in the midst of the battle.

Peter T. O'Brien, The Pillar New Testament Commentary – The Letter to the Ephesians.

Now What? Knowing that one of our enemy's strategies is to divide and conquer, walk in unity as we stand together against him