

According to Ephesians 6:14 :

- What is the **virtue** of the belt _____
- What is the virtue of the breastplate _____

Write a definition for truth: _____

Write a definition for righteousness: _____

Why do you think wearing the belt of truth is necessary before putting on the breastplate of righteousness?

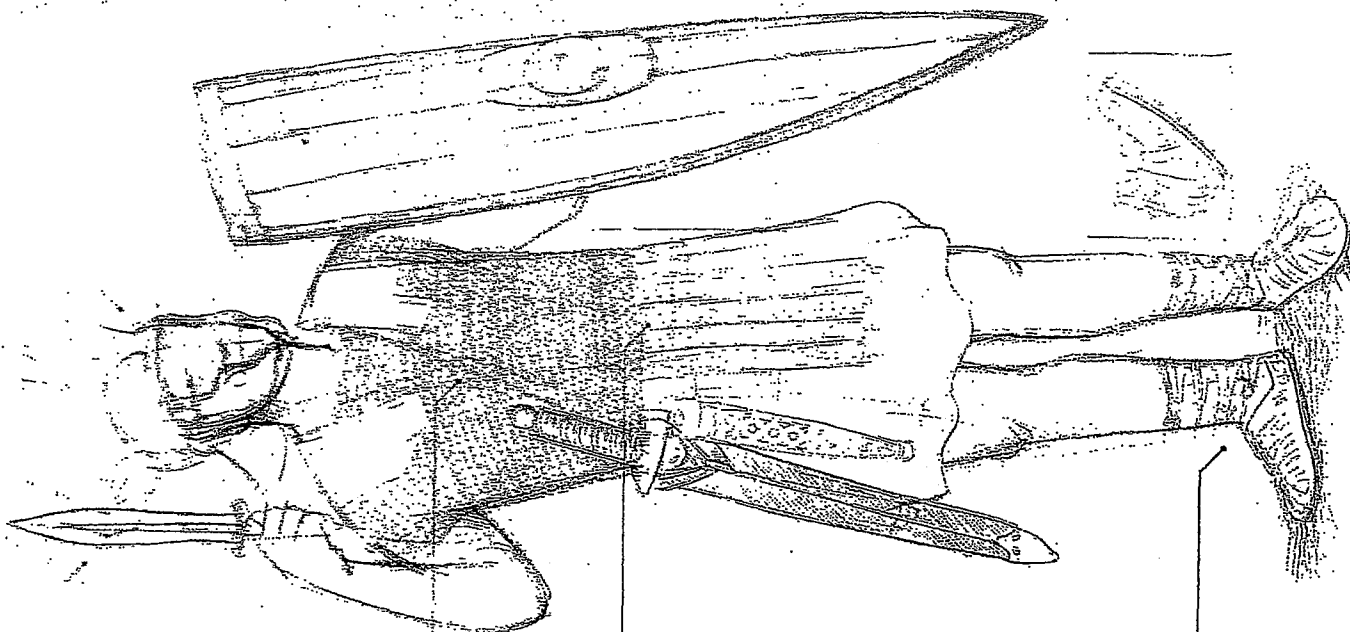
How does the "belt of truth" **affirm** God's standard in the lifestyle of a woman?

How does the "breastplate of righteousness" **align** the lifestyle of a woman?

How would you describe the difference between truth and righteousness?

How can right living act as a guard against the enemy's attacks in your life?

The environment we create in our lifestyle is the invitation to the enemy to make himself at home in our lives. The "one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it" sins. (James 4:17) In your life or someone you love have you seen wrong choices and behavior become a "welcome mat" for demonic activity?



God is perfect—as is His righteousness. How about us? We as humans have the DNA of Adam and Eve and are not righteous. No not one of us. Romans 3:23 tells us “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”. Let’s look back at Romans 3:10-12 and from the OT Isaiah 64:6. What do these passages tell us?

Since God’s perfect righteousness is not a goal we can reach on our own, how do humans attempt to do this?

- 1) Some attempt to chase perfectionism on their own. Trying to be the perfect person. Working like a mad-woman trying to be fit for heaven.
- 2) Some attempt to lower or modify God’s standard. Grade on a curve. Lower requirements for a passing grade.
- 3) Some think He should be willing to adjust His standard to suit us. Cut us some slack. Bring His expectations down to our level of “lifestyle righteousness”.
- 4) Some try to establish their own “standard of righteousness”. Let’s list some.

- False Prophets: _____
- Passing laws legally putting man’s law above God’s law. _____
- Doing what seems right in their own eyes. _____

5) Some compare themselves to others’ to determine their righteousness. In 1 Samuel 24 we read a story about King Saul and his soon to be replacement David. V16 says “..Is that your voice David my son? And he wept aloud. V17 ‘You David are more righteous than I’ (Saul) he said.” Righteousness is measured to God’s perfect standard, not to another person’s. Comparison soothes but also deceives, making us feel justified with sinful actions.

The CROSS took the penalty of our sin away. Our sin required a just payment. Death. And Jesus paid it in full. For all who receive Him by faith. But the cross is the gift that keeps on giving. It didn’t just take something from us, it gave something to us. Open your Bibles to Romans 4:22-25. What action did Abraham take? How did God respond? To whom does this promise apply? When you trust Jesus as your personal Savior the penalty of sin is removed AND the gift of God’s own righteousness is given to you. It is credited to your “spiritual account”. Therefore Believer, your position is one of complete righteousness before God.

Memory Verse: 2Corinthians 5:21 "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

IS THERE AN ISSUE TO RESOLVE? When you trust Jesus as your personal Savior, the penalty of sin is removed and the gift of God's own righteousness is given to you. I AM RIGHTEOUSNESS in Christ.

What did God show us today?

- 1) Your soul makes you a unique individual. It's made up of your mind, will, emotions, and conscience, with the spiritual heart as the centerpiece.
- 2) The virtue of righteousness is the breastplate that protects our spiritual heart.
- 3) When you choose not to affirm truth and align your actions with God's standard, your heart is a target for demonic activity.

What are the ways we can protect our spiritual heart?

Word Study:

- 1) affirm: to maintain as true, to uphold, support or approve. The belt of truth affirms God's standard.
- 2) align: to bring into line, to be in agreement with, to join with others. The breastplate of righteousness aligns her life to God's standards.
- 3) righteousness: to be just; upright living that aligns with God's expectations. The righteousness of God can be yours.
- 4) source: a place from which something comes; arises, the beginning ,starting point. The well was the source of the family's water.
- 5) virtue: moral excellence, goodness, integrity. The virtue of the belt is truth.
- 6) wellspring: a reservoir of human feelings, emotions; to rise up, spring forth , to come into being by growth, as from a seed, root or bulb. The spiritual heart is the wellspring of your spiritual life.