



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Good and Beautiful and Kind: Powers & Principalities

Speaker: Andre Grey, Associate Pastor of New Life East

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-12

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (NIV)

Sermon Outline:

The words Good and Beautiful and Kind don't always express what is taking place in our world.

Unless we get to the root causes and realities that are eating away at our human existence, we will often fail to move towards the reality of goodness, beauty and kindness in our lives and the lives of those around us.

We have a great enemy, which is not against flesh and blood. The question for us today is not *who* our enemy is but rather *what* our enemy is. The biggest scheme that the enemy would have us believe is that our struggle is ultimately against flesh and blood. Many of us wrestle against flesh and blood and make enemies of one another, rather than recognizing the enemy of the evil one.

Paul tells church in Ephesus to put on the full armor of God. The greatest scheme of Evil One is to have us believe that there is no Evil One.

"There are two equal and opposite errors into which humans can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They [the devils] themselves are equally pleased by both errors..." --C.S. Lewis *The Screwtape Letters*

**The world is fractured by the presence of Powers and Principalities.
There are invisible forces that fracture our visible existence.**

Unless we stand strong in God and his mighty power, we will constantly be susceptible to the schemes of the evil one being drawn into disconnection and violence.

The two primary aims of the Powers and Principalities are to cause disconnection and violence - cutting us off from God and one another, and to inflict violence on us and for us to inflict violence on one another.

**Deception
Division
Dehumanization**

We can have our souls be liberated by Jesus and remain committed to Satan's system of oppression.

Jesus died to destroy the work of Satan and defeat the powers of the evil one, and in Christ we have overcome.

It is not what we can do, but in what God has done that we find overcoming power.

**Remain in Christ
Overcome the Powers
Remember what Christ has done**

The demonic powers may be strong but our God is stronger. The powers and principalities may have power but our God is the all-powerful One.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, Andre Grey, Associate Pastor at New Life East, continues our new series entitled *Good and Beautiful and Kind*. Today Pastor Andre focuses on Powers and Principalities and explores how these invisible forces fracture our visible existence and how the gospel empowers us to do the work of resisting their schemes.

Sermon Questions:

1. Do you feel an invitation from Christ in today's scripture passage? Do any of the words resonate with you? If so, why?
2. How do you feel when you hear that when it comes to the dark forces of evil in our world, the question for us is not **who** our enemy is but rather **what** our enemy is. The enemy would have us believe is that our struggle is ultimately against flesh and blood. In what ways have you failed to recognize the evil one and instead have made enemies with flesh and blood – making enemies of those around you?
3. The primary aim of the evil powers in our world are disconnection and violence. How have you been shaped by the power that seeks to draw you into division or violence? Where and how are you being separated from God and those around you? It is through your words and interactions on social media, with your co-workers or family members or are there addictions you're using to numb pain in your life?