



January 18, 2026

UNITED - Ephesians 6:14-18 - Gospel of Peace

SUMMARY: We must be sober and ready, clothed in the armor of God. And today, we heard about the shoes—"the readiness given by the gospel of peace" (Ephesians 6:14-18).

Peace—what peace? Romans 5 says we were enemies of God, now reconciled through Jesus. That peace is not a mood; it's a new status that births a new spirit. Ephesians 2:14 says this peace can spread horizontally, breaking tribal walls. Without it, we elevate our tribe, banish "those people," and never own our own need. With it, we become peacemakers. Richard Morgan, an atheist moderating Dawkins' website, printed months of vicious comments aimed at Pastor David Robertson—and David's steady, non-anxious kindness. That witness won him. Peacemaking is not soft; it's a weapon.

Shoes mean movement. What moves the church forward is not shepherding schemes, TV glitz, small-group fads, social niceness, or celebrity cool. The world is drowning in image and hunger for the real. Jesus is the real. The gospel of peace is the power. That's why we fight for simplicity here: pray, praise, preach, the table, fellowship (Acts 2:42). We won't boast in buildings or methods (1 Corinthians 1:26-31). I'm convinced: I can be full of myself, or full of the Spirit. And I want the church Jesus builds (Matthew 16:18), planted firmly in the shoes of the gospel of peace.

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 6:14-18, Romans 1:16, Romans 5, Ephesians 2:14, Acts 2:42, 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, Matthew 16:18

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. Think of one person or group you currently consider "those people." What is one concrete thing you will do this week to show them non-anxious, peace-bearing kindness (a call, a meal, a listening visit)? Be specific about day/time.
2. Choose one of the simple practices the sermon named (prayer, praise, Scripture, table/communion, fellowship). What measurable step will you take this week to prioritize it (for example: read Ephesians 6 aloud on Wednesday, invite a neighbor to supper Saturday, join a midweek prayer time)? Write it down and share it with the group.
3. When tempted to adopt a new church method because it's trendy, what two questions will you ask to test whether it serves the gospel first? (Create those two questions now and commit to asking them before approving the next program or event.)
4. Remember a recent conflict where you felt you had to defend yourself or your tribe. If you had been standing in "peace with God" first, what different words or actions would you have used? Name the specific alternative response you will try next time.
5. The sermon challenged each person to be "ready" to move with the gospel. What is one small, tangible step you can take this week to share the gospel (a short invite, a 2-minute testimony text, handing someone a gospel booklet)? Set a day and person.
6. When you are criticized or attacked (online or face-to-face), practice a short prayer or sentence you can use to steady yourself that demonstrates "non-anxious kindness." Write it here and practice it aloud before the group.