

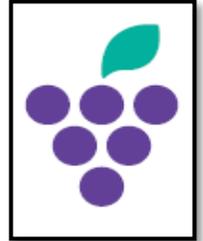
# THE VINES UNITING CHURCH

# 30 The Grape: "Something to chew

# Good morning!



Even in isolation, we have come from a bunch and the bunch is connected to the Vine.



**"Be STRONG in the LORD, PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOUR TO STAND FIRM."**

**Ephesians 6:10 – 18**

**#1 Truth - Belt**



## The Armour of God#1 The Belt of truth

Paul states that we are to put on the Armour of God. Who knew that there was armour to wear to protect us during times of hardship, temptation, injury and trauma? Paul lists the following:

#1 Truth (Belt), #2 Righteousness (Breastplate), #3 Peace (shoes),  
#4 Faith (Shield) & #5 Salvation (Helmet / Sword).

Impressive, where do you store yours or are you wearing it now?  
Eugene Peterson translates Eph 6:10-18 this way:

*13-18 Be prepared. You're up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get... Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them." The MSG*

Q. What phrases stand out to you from this translation?

Q. What does the fact we have armour suggest to you?

Having worn modern armour (helmet, gloves and Kevlar Vest=20kg) on deployment and while on exercise, an important fact is while armour is to be worn in high risk areas, it is important to train in armour to condition the body to the weight and reduce chafe spots.

Interestingly Paul omits the Field Pack, which every soldier carries. It weighs about 35kg and is meant to sustain you in the field: food, clothes, sleeping gear etc. With no field pack does that we are in Base, and we sally forth to defend and then return. Is the church the base, and are we meant to emerge in formation with other Christians like Roman soldiers did? Facing the foe together?

We are the body of Christ, our disasters, trials and despair are to be done together... not alone. We grow stronger together, as we resource, support and pass on God's hope and love.

Rev DJPrior

## **25<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 20 INTERIM WORSHIP:**

Join us on Sunday from 9.30 am to approx. 10.30 am for our service, a chance to Worship and reconnect.

The maximum attendance is 55 people, including the Worship team.

**Service - Recorded and LIVE STREAMED onto Vines Web page.**

[https://www.youtube.co/results?search\\_query=the+vines+uniting+church](https://www.youtube.co/results?search_query=the+vines+uniting+church)

### **BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS**

Please book your tickets through **Humanitix** from 3pm on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October until 11 am on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> Oct. and phone Judy Beames or Lynn Ellison if you need help with booking.

Should you need **TO CANCEL** your tickets, please let Judy or Lynn know by **4 pm on Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> October**, (unless there are unexpected circumstances), to enable them to rebook the tickets.

***Please do not attend the Sunday Service if you are at all unwell.***

### **Please note:**

Commencing this week there will no longer be a Zoom morning tea chat.



**ber OUR key MESSAGE:**

**connect with others**

**and Choose Life”**

**grow stronger during COVID**

**so to pass on God’s Love.**

## **AIM: “GROW STRONGER THROUGH COVID.”**

Christmas is coming, the New Year beckons, what will it be like? As the rest of the world remains immersed in the chaos of the pandemic the restrictions and isolation within our Australian community are likely to remain in place throughout 2021. Therefore our aim to “Grow Stronger through COVID” becomes vital.

Last week I invited you to email me your thoughts, Marj responded.

*“The challenges of Covid 19 over such a long period of time have been enormous --frightening and restrictive. We know that many people have not been able to cope and the calls to “help lines” have risen dramatically and many have given up and succumbed to suicide... No matter how well SA has done in controlling the virus, it has not gone away and remains a threat.*

*As a church family, we have been deeply affected by the separation and isolation and we have been held together by the love of family and friends... What about those in our community who do not have such a network!*

*... Jesus called his disciples to a life of action and His own words and actions are meant to show us how to do it! It seems to me that we must be willing to step out of our comfort zone and try creative ways to reach those who are struggling within our hurting community. How can we adapt to the new normal? How do we share God’s love in meaningful and life giving ways, that offer hope and future?*

*As we ponder David’s words and open ourselves to new possibilities, let us be game to try creative and innovative ways to be “church”. We are only limited by our imagination. As we live out our faith, we need to remember that God has faith in us to reflect Jesus! He made no other plans!”*

*Excerpts from an email sent to Rev DJP by Marj Dredge.*