

# Developing Backbone

**Scripture: Ro. 12:1-21**

**Intro:** One of the Christian's direst needs is for God's people to get some spine, stamina, intestinal fortitude, gut, grit, standup for right, red bloodedness, boldness, courage.

1. In standing for right. (Eph. 6:10-11)
2. In standing against wrong. (II Cor. 6:18-19)

## **I. Fit In Your Gap. (Ezek. 22:30; Jer. 12:11)**

- A. Find it: prepare self. (Pr. 3:5-6; 18:16)
  1. There is a place for you! (I Cor. 4:7)
  2. Where is the place for you? (Ro. 12:3-21)
- B. Fit in it: promote Saviour. (Ro. 12:2)
  1. Reasonable service: present body. (Lk. 9:23)
  2. Renewed sense: transformed mind. (Phil. 2:5)
    - a. The hedge must be gapless: this is your place. (Eph. 4:27)
    - b. The hedge with a gap: why aren't you in your place? (Rev. 2:5; Eccl. 10:8) "whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him." (Lk. 14:23)
      1. Hedge is about us: God's protection. (Job. 1:10)
      2. Hedge is around vineyard (souls we reach): give protection by fitting in it.

## **II. Fill In Your Gap. (Ezek. 22:30)**

- A. Hedges prepared for protection: stand.
  1. Biblical ideas. (Mt. 21:33)
    - a. Place of vineyards: entrance guarded against invaders
    - b. Place of sheep: cute. entrance filled by shepherd against predators.
  2. Believer's ideal. (Ezek. 22:30; Jer. 12:11)
    - a. Stand by conviction: word commands – do your job.
    - b. Stand by communion: prayer concern – do your stuff.
- B. Hedges pretended by professors: stoop. (Mt. 22:29)
  1. Backbone is needed: how to get it. Realization!
    - a. Realize the honor and importance of your gap: God's place for you.
    - b. Realize the hedge is made up by gap-fillers: They depend on you (Pr. 23:19)
    - c. Realize the huge price at stake: your won family is at stake. Get out of line (gap) and the serpent gets you. (Ecc.l. 10:8)
    - d. Realize the hindrance created by your abandonment for only a while: your gap. (I Pet. 3:15; Ro. 12:3-21)
  2. Backbone is dedded: where to get it. Recognition. (Acts 4:31)
    - a. Involvement: Fill your gap. Angry at talebearers. (Pr. 25:23)
    - b. Inclusion: Fill all your gap. Not angry when forced to stand (don't stoop)  
(Don't shoot your own soldiers. Don't throw the baby out with the dirty bath water)

**III. Fight For Your Gap. (Ezek. 22:30; Eph. 4:27; Eccl. 10:8)**

A. Give it your best. (Eccl. 9:10)

1. Vision: proper perspective. What aids your progress. (Pr. 29:18)

2. Victory: proper priorities. What adds to your progress. (Pr. 29:18)

B. Guard it your best. (II Tim. 1:14)