

**Military:**  
*As A Good Soldier of Christ*

Dr. Greg E. Gifford

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I. Nuances to a Military Community

A. Indoctrinated Personal Values

B. Individual Appearance Standards

C. A Pre-Designated Community

D. Provided 'Vision of Success'

II. Military as an Identity

A. I am my Job Specialty,

B. I am my Rank,

C. I am my OER/EER,

D. I am my Deployment,

E. I am my Unit.



Veterans of Foreign Wars Mission: “*To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts.*”

F. The Military—with good intentions—can become one’s identity, which results in a faulty identity.

III. How do I know the military has become my identity?

- A. When I let the vision of success in the military become my *ultimate* vision of success ...
- B. When my rank equates to the way in which I use my spiritual giftedness ...
- C. When I judge other people who have not experienced what I have in the military as lesser than ...
- D. When my key positions, duty stations, and career advancement rule every decision I make ...
- E. When I believe lower ranking people are inherently less important and show partiality ...
- F. When my commitment to my Unit is great than my commitment to my church ...

#### IV. Camaraderie without Compromise

##### A. A Biblical Understanding of *Soldiering*

- Ephesians 6:11 and 2 Corinthians 10:4
  
  - 2 Timothy 2:3
  
  - 1 Timothy 1:18
- b. The term *soldiering* was used for the Gospel with a call to be bold for suffering.
- c. *Soldiering* was to understand the nature of warfare, not identity.

A soldier is never biblically expressed as one's identity but rather as a means of demonstrating the type of warfare one engages in with the Gospel, thus making them bold to suffer.  
*My personal soldiering is always reflective of my soldiering as a Christian.*

#### II. Practical Strategies for Military "Sub-Identity"

- a. In Christ, all people of all nations are equal (Gal. 3:26), meaning my service is not my first identity but my status in Christ. Furthermore, my righteousness does not come from my military service but from Christ alone (2 Cor. 5:21).

- b. The local church must remain my first/primary community (Heb. 10:24), not my unit or the VFW. It is ultimately in the church where I use the gifts God has entrusted to me (1 Cor. 12:18).
  
- c. When wearing my military uniform, I will only boast in Christ and his work on my behalf—sometimes not wearing the entirety of my medals. “What do I have that I did not receive?” (1 Cor. 4:7).
  
- d. Finally, I will measure success by greater conformity to the image of Christ not advancing to the next rank, completing specialty schools, deployments, or my own physical abilities (2 Cor. 5:9; Col. 1:28).

### III. Conclusion: