

GUNS AND THE MILITARY

(Christians and Violence)

Resources Used for This Topic Include:

Preston Sprinkle: **THE FIGHT**

Michael W. Austin and Ron Gleason: **THE GUN CONTROL DEBATE: TWO CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVES** (Christian Research Journal Magazine, 2013)

- + Here's Preston Sprinkle's bottom line: "I do _____ that Jesus wants Christians to use _____."
- + He says, "We live in a strange scene of redemptive history when _____ to war, violence, and militarism is deemed _____."
- + He defines Violence as: "a physical act that is intended to destroy (i.e. injure) a victim by means that _____ the victim's _____."
- + Violence begins almost at the beginning, in Genesis, when Cain _____ murdered his brother Abel.
- + God responds to the first murder with _____—a visible preservation of shalom.
- + And God didn't _____ other _____ either including Moses and David.
- + A big part of Preston's viewpoint with violence in the O.T. is figuring out what is _____ and what is _____.
- + Israel was _____ violent and had a stripped-down ---almost _____—warfare policy compared to the nations around it.
- + In Deut 20 the case is made for war this way:
 - _____, not military might, determines the victory
 - Israel's army is made up of _____ warriors

- Israel must offer _____ FIRST
- Only if the city _____ can you go to war
- Noncombatants are not to be killed
- Even _____ are to be saved

+ Remember when you read the Bible to distinguish between the “_____” and the “_____.” Not everything that happens is God’s _____.

+ God sanctions specific wars to protect his _____, but the primary weapons were to be faith, obedience, and prayer not chariots and horses.

+ Jesus preached a _____ - _____ kingdom.

+ Jesus preaches a _____ kingdom. John 18:36

+ Listen, something is _____ when the Kingdom of God is _____ from the kingdom of the world.

+ The Sermon of the Mount is Jesus’ _____ for the Kingdom we are to live in NOW—and it’s radically non-violent.

+ Throughout his ministry, Jesus _____ retaliates and _____ loves his enemies, even when he is violently attacked.

+ While on the cross he prays _____, not _____ his attackers.

+ Read 1 Peter 2:21-23

+ Read Phil 3:20.

+ What about Romans 13?????

+ What about the WRATH of the LAMB in the Book of Revelation?

+ Well, read it closely—the violence is not _____ out as much as it is _____!!!!!!

+ Nowhere in Revelation are _____ encouraged to act violently.

+ Jesus receives authority to judge His enemies _____ he first suffers by their hands as a slaughtered Lamb.

+ And the Lamb conquers by the sword—THAT COMES FROM HIS _____ not his _____!

+ Our enemies can kick us, beat us, kill us—but they cannot win—THE LAMB has _____!

+ Think about this: The Early Christian writers were _____ on many issues, such as the mode of baptism, the role of women in leadership, and whether Christians should observe the Sabbath. BUT WHEN IT CAME TO KILLING THEIR VOICES SEEMED TO BE _____: BELIEVERS ARE PROHIBITED FROM TAKING HUMAN LIFE.

+ The “soldier” passages highlight one basic point: THE GOSPEL PIERCES THE HEART OF _____ PEOPLE—EVEN ROMAN MILITARY LEADERS.

+ Was Jesus violent? John 2:14-15.

+ What about telling them in Luke 22:35-38 to buy a sword.

+ What about Augustine’s JUST WAR theory:

- Just _____ (self-defense, stop genocide, etc)
- Right _____ (only legit gov’t not criminals or private militia)
- Right _____ (no vengeance, economic gain, expanding your territory)
- Reasonable Chance of _____
- _____ Resort (all other means exhausted)
- _____ Means
- Noncombatant _____

This topic is _____! I’m not settled on it. And frankly, I hope, after tonight, you’re _____ settled on it either.

Next Pastor’s Perspective will be **NEXT WEEK!** “Hell and Who Is Going There.” **Note this is a schedule change!**