

**General Topics :: Should A Christian Own A Gun?****Should A Christian Own A Gun? - posted by Blayne, on: 2012/7/21 3:46**

(I posted this below to an earlier Thread minutes ago and thought afterwards that it may have been better to start a new Thread with the question).

Ummm, I have a question for you: should a Christian own a gun?

As a side-note:

No doubt, watching the video footage of the shooting aftermath has been something very gruesome for everyone. Especially seeing the victims' family members and loved ones with tears streaming down their faces.

Maybe we now have a taste of what has been happening in other countries on a near daily basis and for many years now. Everyday a group of tidy men are arbitrarily deciding to visit murder and mayhem on any number of homes and community places. The list of their victims far surpasses those of the Colorado carnage; by 10's of 100's.

Of course 'C_No_N_ews' isn't there to record the wailing shrieks of the innocent children who awakened to find their parents strewn as straws of flesh in the front yard. Neither is 'FraudCast News' there to place microphones into the tearful faces of the survivors. No one hears about the good father whose life was snuffed because he was 'at the wrong place at the wrong time'. Nor of the sister who dissolved into a plume of smoke while grinding flour.

Regardless, the 'C_riminal N_ews B_ankster C_rimes' Network continues to happily report the increasing share price of the gun manufacturers and armament industry. And, Christians continue to go along with their merry way winking about their deadly thirst for pretended security. There's hardly a ping of conscience for those victims whose only sin was to live in the kill-zone of a country's insane desire for empire and oil.

Of course there are those delusional among us claiming that the murder and mayhem committed in our name is God's work. They have licensed themselves with a criminal sense of entitlement; boasting about being the 'chosen' of God. They are convinced that those who worship false gods are inherently worthless and near sub-human and deserve to be eradicated. In every way they have supplanted God ... even made themselves gods demanding that we worship and adore their murderous sprees.

Did we think that our killing spree could continue with impunity?

"Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword"

Re: Should A Christian Own A Gun? - posted by RobertW (), on: 2012/7/21 4:46

It all depends on its use. The solution for abuse is not non-use but right-use. Hunting is a valid use of a weapon. Protection of society is a God-ordained use of a weapon.

For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. (Romans 13:3, 4)

Re: , on: 2012/7/21 6:11

Jesus also said those who pick up the sword will die by the sword.

Re: - posted by Blayne, on: 2012/7/21 6:34

Hi! 'RobertW'

I suppose I should have posed the question more clearly; I was meaning to ask about Christians owning a firearm which is not suitable nor intended for sport or hunting.

Concerning your reference to Romans 13:3,4 :

My own opinion is that the all-encompassing command is: "We must obey God rather than men!", (Acts 5:29).

Earthly governance is formed by what Paul named as 'elemental spirits'. As such, they are weak and beggarly and prone to "repay evil with evil"; also, simultaneously reaping what they sow.

So, for the sake of this discussion, let's lay out the underlying parameters:

While we are citizens of a heavenly kingdom, we also live in the natural world. Therefore, the disciple of Jesus is also a good citizen of the emperor, an orderly citizen of his town, a punctual taxpayer and respectful towards the representatives of the government and of the authority. This is why the early Christians were not rebels against the state. They submitted to the government; despite the fact that oftentimes their leaders invited disgust and contempt.

We know that in the Kingdom of God there are both principalities and powers. This confirms that not all spirits in the unseen world are equal. In addition, there are throne angels, cherubs, governments, angel of the church, messengers, and there is also the angel of the Lord. Further, there are also tens of thousands of angels who stand under their own princes.

The devils also know a similar hierarchy. They have their principalities, powers, rulers and their legions of evil spirits too which are subject to their leaders.

The human spirit too belongs to God's hierarchical order. Mankind shares a hierarchy; king and subject, state government and federal government, parent and child, master and servant, employer and employee. The hierarchical formation of human spirits are what constitute our social and political order.

It is this hierarchical order which makes known the reigning "elements of the world" which cause life to be possible on earth. While all these hierarchical power relationships are God ordained, this doesn't mean to say that the authorities are directly appointed by God.

So it is that we are living in a world which is ruled by innate hierarchical laws. As a side thought: this same hierarchy role and structure can also be found in the animal world. In the animal world too we find leadership roles and relations between creature parents and the obedience of their offspring.

Therefore, we also see how the Law of Sinai made use of some sort ordering and structure and therefore it too is directly associated with the "elements of the world", (Gal 4:3,9 and Col 2:8 & 20).

The Bible describes these "elements of the world", (or, "elementary spirits"), as being weak and beggarly because they are human spirits which are without the power of the Holy Spirit and therefore unable to oppose the lawless forces originating from the kingdom of darkness.

So, it is that these weak and beggarly spirits can only resist and maintain their authority by natural remedies and penalties; unable to overcome the powers of evil, they are left with no alternative but to exterminate its manifestation.

Without observing the social and political relationships, life on earth would be impossible; everything would soon tumble into a chaotic and undisciplined mob. Not surprisingly, anarchy is said to be a special sign of the end times.

The Apostle Paul fully knew that the Christian is no longer subject to "the law". Rather, the Christian is free and no longer a slave, a king and a priest, an heir of God and joint-heir with Christ.

However, he also knew that in the natural world the Christian remained subject to the requirements of the 'elementary spirits'. A slave was to remain obedient to his master, (both the good and the bad), a child to his parents, (both the believer and unbeliever), and also the citizen must remain obedient to an often unreasonable and immoral government.

So, member 'RobertW', the Scriptures about submission to authority which you referenced are (needless to be said by

me) clear and straightforward truth.

It was a lying, false accusation, when the Jews accused Jesus before Pilate against Caesar, saying that He forbade to give tribute to Caesar, (John 19:12, and Luke 23:2). Our Lord Himself paid both the Synagogue taxes and secular government taxes, (Matt 17:24-27). He also subjected Himself to the world spirits during His natural life. He remained submissive to the hierarchical order; example: subservient to his parents, recognizing that Pilate had power over Him, (having received such power from above), (John 19:11).

An incompetent and unwise government is still better than no government. For times of bad government, the Lord says, "Be not afraid of those who kill the body but can not kill the soul", (Matt 10:28). It's not for nothing that the Bible says, "I exhort first of all supplications, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made ​​for all men, for kings and all in authority, that we may lead quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity", (1Tim 2:1,2).

Anyways 'RobertW', I said all the above to clearly state that I don't wish to be found twisting the Word "to their own destruction, (2Pet 3:16).

The word "sword" in your referenced Scripture illustrates the avenging justice on this earth; a justice which repays evil with punishment. The government bears the sword and she is the only person in the social hierarchical order on earth that has consent to punish. They repay evil with evil, and therefore speak the language of workers of wrath. .

We are entering into a time when the following is being fulfilled: "And I will give children their princes, and babes shall rule over them. And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his neighbour: the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable", (Isaiah 3:4,5). Therefore it is becoming increasingly necessary to submit, not only because of fearing the workers of wrath, but also for conscience sake.

Many think a government is owed ​​their obedience only if it matches their views and their interests. This is not scriptural. A Christian, who is truly a spiritual man, will for the sake of his conscience not engage in disorderly conduct. Both Paul and Peter lived at a time of a very tyrannical regime and yet lived victoriously. They did not speak criticism against their governments because they didn't consider this as their task. Instead, they had a positive posture about the governing authorities and obeyed. They prayed about their governments, for their good, if there was any, as well as for their evil.

Re: - posted by DEADn (), on: 2012/7/21 8:01

My personal answer from a previous posting

Quote:

by Blayne on 2012/7/21 0:15:51

Hil 'DEADn'

Ummm, I have a question for you: should a Christian own a gun?

If they know how to use it and handle it I don't see why not. When it comes to guns I find something amusing. When incidents like Colorado and schools stuff happens there is an outcry on gun control yet if you look carefully the people who have these guns are city people who probably don't use these guns very much. Contrast this to those who hunt. They will have their kids shoot the guns and teach them about the guns and to respect the guns. When the guns are done they are locked up and the kids know not to mess with them until an appropriate time. We rarely hear of issues with hunters and guns. Only with those in the city but that is never brought up.

I don't own a gun, I really have not reason to own a gun but if I did I would make sure I respected that thing and took classes and went to the gun range and understood the thing.

Re: , on: 2012/7/21 8:09

And again Jesus said, those who i pick up the sword will die by the sword.

Re: - posted by Solomon101, on: 2012/7/21 8:51

Bearmaster quoted Jesus words to Peter at Gathsemane

Quote:

----- And again Jesus said, those who pick up the sword will die by the sword.

Here is an interesting reflection on that event. Apparently the only reason Peter even had the sword was that Jesus had instructed him, and the other disciples, to carry them.

Quote:

----- Then Jesus asked them, "When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?"

"Nothing," they answered.

He said to them, "But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don't have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one. Luke 22:35-35 N IV

In the text we see that if they did not have a sword Jesus instructed them to sell some of their clothes and buy one.

I find that fascinating when coupled with Jesus words to Peter in Gathsemane to not take up or live by the very sword H e instructed Peter to buy.

In context we also see they were carrying two swords with them as they traveled with Jesus.

Quote:

----- The disciples said, "See, Lord, here are two swords. Luke 22:38"

He then tells them that it's enough. What is particularly striking to me is that Jesus followers are evidently armed to some degree as they are doing ministry. He initially sent them out alone without bag, purse, sword, or extra clothes. However a fter they returned from trusting Him with nothing they are instructed to "stock up" a bit, if you will.

We don't think of Christ's Apostles walking into town with a sword strapped to their hips. However, it appears that some of them may have done so.

Re: - posted by bakary (), on: 2012/7/21 9:24

Solomon101, Just continue reading the whole chapter you quotes from luke Chapter 22 as you read from verse 48 to 51 you will see

That the reason why he told them to buy the sword was that he was about to teach them a practical truth , about never u sing physical weapons to fight against flesh and blood.. Read below

When they which were about him saw what would follow, they said unto him, Lord, shall we smite with the sword?

50 And one of them smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear.

51 And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far. And he touched his ear, and healed him.(luke 22v48-52)

So you see the sword they had was not to be as a protection against those that want to kill them but he was teaching t

hem that no matter the level of physical opposition they faced even if it require there lives they should not defend by fighting back because they battle not with flesh and blood, but rulers of darkness in high places. So there is no contradiction . Any person who use weapon as a form of protection against wickedness is not yet in the kingdom of Christ , he may still be in the law but not in the spirit of Christ.

Re: , on: 2012/7/21 9:42

Hi brother Robert, I hear what you are saying, but did not the American revolutionaries arm themselves because they were " afraid of the authorities?" Was Britain not " God's minister to you for good?" And if they were, was not this " right to bear arms," established in contradicton of God's word ? Just some food for thought :) America has the highest murder rate per capita in the western world, four times higher than its nearest rivals. It also has a huge prision population, higher by far, by head of poplualtion than any other western country. Could this be a result of a basic violation of Gods word or is it simply just the most violent country?bro Frank

Re: - posted by Solomon101, on: 2012/7/21 10:07

@ Bakary

That is one of several possible interpretations. Throughout church history it is one that some have advanced. There are probably a half dozen various interpretations that have gained traction at one time or another in the history of the church. However, it is just one and it requires a fair amount of pure supposition to come to that conclusion. However, it is one way to view it. There certainly is nothing in the text to strongly make that the proper understanding.

One of the weaknesses of your interpretation is that you must remove Jesus words for them to "get or buy a sword" from the entire context and statement it came in. That normally will get into very faulty interpretation.

Recall that Jesus not only told them to now "get, or buy a sword" but to also to take a purse (to hold money) and a bag (that held possessions). If your thoughts are correct then where is the use of those at Gathsemane. Jesus clearly made them part of the same instructions as the sword.

A second complication of your interpretation is this - Jesus Himself said he was referring to the times of when they went out in ministry for taking the sword, purse, and bag. Note in Luke 22:35 he specifically references those times, " Then Jesus asked them, "When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?" "Nothing," they answered".

His words about the bag, sword, purse are then immediately given as to what they are to now take as opposed to when He instructed them to take nothing with them. It would seem fairly obvious that the clearer meaning is that they were sent out initially with noting so as to have to trust God for daily provision. Once that was experienced they could take provision having learned not to depend on those... but on God. Much as Paul saying that he had been in abundance and in want but regardless he was content in fulfilling the plan of God.

Let's also take a practical real world example. I am assuming you are a male but forgive me if not. No way to tell from an internet name. So.. I am making that assumption.

What if you came home to find your wife beaten and tied to a kitchen chair with duct tape. Your two teenage daughters also beaten, bound feet and hands and laying on the floor. Two men are in your house that did this. They are eating the supper on the table prepared by your family. You see the situation through the door window but they did not spot you. However, you do hear them tell your wife and daughters that they are going to rape them after they eat and then slit their throats. They are going to make your wife watch your daughters be raped and killed before they do the same to her. These men have no guns. They were just bigger and stronger. HOWEVER, you have a shotgun and pistol in your workshop in the back. You can get one of those firearms and save your your wife and daughters from rape and murder... or you can let it happen... or you can call the police who will make out a nice report when they come to work the murder scene in a couple of hours. Bottom line...you step in and make a move to save your wife and daughters from rape and murder now or it will happen starting in 2 minutes.

You now have 120 seconds before it begins.... what do you do?

Re: Should A Christian Own A Gun? - posted by Lysa (), on: 2012/7/21 10:17

Quote:

-----Blaine asked:

Ummm, I have a question for you: should a Christian own a gun?

I personally don't own a gun but haven't Christians owned guns for thousands of years, so what would make a difference about today or not. A sidebar: I believe in anyone who wants to own a gun should be allowed to own one or two or three. If everyone were allowed to carry a gun, that man in the movie theater (or the McDonalds) might have killed one or two before three or four people shot him. Just saying.

About Christians owning guns, for me a major difference is, where do we put our trust... in the gun or in Him?

When I was 19, I moved into my first apartment and one night about 3 am, I was sound asleep and the Holy Spirit woke me up praying in tongues as I raised straight up from my waist and spoke in tongues with authority LOUDLY for (seemed like 5 min) probably 30 sec to a min. And he stopped and I heard voices outside my bedroom window and then footsteps running. I jumped up and ran to the living room window and looked out and I saw a car flying down the street, chirping the tires!

I don't know if God gave them ability to understand what was said or not but I know they literally ran away!! "The wicked flee when no man pursues" (Prov 28.1) Amen Thank you Jesus! I've always "known" that He is my protector and I don't need a gun to protect me! He did a fine job that night and many other nights!!

God bless you, Blaine

Lisa

Re: Should A Christian Own A Gun? - posted by pilgrim777, on: 2012/7/21 11:26

Guns, knives, bows and arrows, axes, chainsaws, and SUVs are all amoral.

No sin in owning them unless the Spirit of God has told you not to.

Remember, you walk by the Spirit and anything the Spirit of God tells you is wrong, is wrong. "All those that are led by the Spirit of God, are the sons of God".

Only He knows the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Depending on the thoughts and intents of the heart, I would surmise that God allows some to have guns and some he does not want to have guns.

God's personal leading and will for us is interesting, isn't it? We are not all led in the same way.

With that said, I don't believe He leads His children to kill. Jesus taught non-resistance (Luke 6:29 is a hard one for people to swallow).

I know Christians who live by hunting game and who also live in dangerous regions (dangerous animals). Banging on a drum would not help defend them.

Then there are others caught up with fear thinking a gun will be their security.

Of course, this incident will be used to bolster the proposed ban on guns, as usual. Crime in the UK increased when they were banned. Crime in Australia has increased, too. The proposed ban on guns is not to decrease crime, then, is it? It is so the government can control the good people and not have to worry that they would rise up and defend themselves when their "freedoms" are taken away or a despot takes over the highest office in the land. This is how I understand this nation's 2nd amendment. Liberal thinking is very naive. Even Christians know we live in an evil world and the only way to change men's hearts is through Jesus Christ and not legislation. Laws are just meant to keep wickedness at bay, but what happens when those laws aid wickedness?

Pilgrim

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2012/7/21 15:53

Quote:

-----Could this be a result of a basic violation of Gods word or is it simply just the most violent country?

Not sure dear brother. Power and authority has changed hands so many times since the text was penned it wuld take a lifetime to map it all our for every country. I just know what the text says and it is a sobering warning. There are others th at go along with it to balance it. I don't have the authority to dismiss the passage, so I take the approach that we should honor the people that are in authority at the moment. Rome was a very violent society, especially with Nero at the helm. They even ruled southern England at one time, but as I recall could not defeat the good Scottish folks so they built a wall instead. :-) So I figure that if a Roman soldier qualified as 'the Lord's ministers' and they had a ruthless reputation, I don't really need to look farther than that. His sword was designed to kill with proficiency. So I see the gun as a sword and if they develop laser guns I'll reckon them as the same thing I suppose. Just some thoughts.

Re: - posted by ccchhrrriiisss (), on: 2012/7/21 18:05

When it comes to gun ownership, I do not own one. I do know hunters who hunt for food and are quite successful at it. My grandfather had a farm. When we visited him, he would often serve us food that he has shot and killed (either from h unts or from his farm). I remember that my aunt once told me that it had been years since they had purchased food at th e grocery store.

Since I purchase my meat at restaurants and the grocery store, I don't feel a need to own a rifle.

I also know members of the police who own weapons. Those weapons are not used to "murder" individuals, but to keep the peace and prevent violent men from carrying out violent acts. Military men sometimes carry a gun too. As brother Robert shared, this is a scriptural precept. In addition, the New Testament speaks of secular authorities who are instruments of punishment for evildoers. In fact, Paul, when standing before King Festus, mentioned that he would not refuse to die if he had broken the secular law in a way that carried the death penalty (Acts 25:11).

As for the American nation: The Declaration of Independence makes it clear the intent of the founders of the nation in 1776. They believed that certain anecdotal actions demonstrated that it was necessary to dissolve the political bonds between the colonies and the nation from which they had once been tied (England). The colonists believed that they had, by virtue of self-governance and the lack of proper representation in England, achieved a "separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and nature's God entitle them."

Thus, the colonists didn't see their independence as "rebellion" but as defending their "independence" and solidifying the separation from former bonds on the basis of the state of the colonies at the time and the ideas that were not shared with England and its rulers. In fact, most colonists declared the subsequent "war" that existed between the United States and England as the "War of Independence" rather than a "Revolutionary War."

In the Declaration and subsequent state documents (the governments of the states remained the same before, during and immediately after the war), the colonists and their leaders were adamant that the states were "separate and equal" stations. Thus, they held an army to protect and preserve that status.

The gun violence in this country is troubling. However, when just the size of the population and the number of shootings per 100,000 is compared, the rate of shootings/deaths in the US is similar to many other nations. And, when you consider the availability of guns in this country and compare it with other nations with similar availability (guns per 100,000), the rate of shootings in the United States is actually relatively low-to-average. It is still too high...and I think that steps can be taken to lower it even further.

I don't mean for this thread to get sidetracked by this, but I simply wanted to touch on something from a previous post.

Like Robert and others have said, there are legitimate reasons to own a gun (like hunting), so I would answer the original poster that it is acceptable for a Christian to own one. However, I agree with DEADn about the need to safeguard and understand it.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2012/7/22 8:06

Solomon-

Not sure why people are ignoring the scenario you raise in your last post.

I can tell you what I would do, and it wouldn't end well for the thugs.

And I know another thing-- Jesus would be perfectly okay with that.

If some thug went after Mary, would Jesus have just sat by and watched? I cannot imagine that- at all.

Re: , on: 2012/7/22 8:16

Lock and load for Jesus. Something just does not seem right. I remind the forum again that he said. The one who draws the sword will die by the sword.

Bearmaster.

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2012/7/22 9:18

If I recall, in Scripture, swords were only used for personal protection and in combat like in war.

Bows and arrows were used in hunting and war.

The early Anabaptists did not believe in sport hunting. Am not sure why, anymore, but find this interesting. The American bison would not have faced extinction if all men would have embraced this principle.

Scripture does not prohibit the hunting of animals for food, neither does it prohibit fishing, either. So then, the implication is that it allows man to use whatever means necessary to acquire it. In so do I would believe one should not be wasteful, like in killing for the sport of it.

It is the evil in the heart of man that will resort to whatever tool is at hand to kill whoever displeases him/her. Guns kill, but so do cars, knives, bats, hands, fists.....

Re: - posted by pilgrim777, on: 2012/7/22 9:38

Solomon,

With your hypothetical story, I don't see why all Christians don't run out and buy an arsenal and turn their homes into barricaded fortresses. Why do you think the Spirit of God is not leading His children to do this?

Listen to this when you get a chance and see what God did and still can do.

Kidnapped from a Kmart parking lot, Margy Mayfield spent the next 10 hours with a violent and dangerous criminal. Stephan Morin had never known anything but driving hatred, until he experienced the love of Christ. What happened on their journey is nothing short of miraculous!

http://www.mapministry.org/upload/audio/Serial_Killer_Surrenders_to_Christ.mp3

Pilgrim

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2012/7/23 14:33

De-clawing the cat does not protect it from the pit bull. It is only because the cat has claws that the pit bull is less apt to molest the cat.

Disarming the general public only ensures the safety of the criminal.

Re: - posted by pilgrim777, on: 2012/7/23 14:46

Quote:

-----Should a Christian own a gun?

Should a Christian own a bottle of Drano?

Should a Christian own a steak knife?

Should a Christian own an SUV?

Should a Christian walk in the Spirit?

Pilgrim

Re: - posted by Blayne, on: 2012/7/23 15:17

Hi! "Pilgrim777"

Yuh dragged me into a fit of laughter with this comment.

Every single one of your mocking questions (except the final one) had me remembering a Christian lady that I met during my early upside-down-getting-upside-right Christian walk.

She had left the conversation we were having to go out to the kitchen to brew up sum tea. After hearing some excited mumbling, I went out and discovered her laying hands on the stove element and prayin' up a storm.

I went down to the basement area and located the fuse panel and promptly fingered the reset-switch that had sprung to overload. When I returned to the kitchen, the lady was there loudly blessing God for healing her stove.

I never did have the courage to tell her about how I had reset the fuse panel.

So, 'Pilgrim777', feel free to add the following question to your next list:

"Should a Christian call a stove repairman?"

Re: , on: 2012/7/23 15:56

Chris writes.....

"Thus, the colonists didn't see their independence as "rebellion" but as defending their "independence" and solidifying the separation from former bonds on the basis of the state of the colonies at the time and the ideas that were not shared with England and its rulers. In fact, most colonists declared the subsequent "war" that existed between the United States and England as the "War of Independence" rather than a "Revolutionary War."

Since when did truth lie in the hands of mens perceptions? The Scriptures are clear about submitting to authorities and the colonists were certainly rebels. rebelling against an authority way less cruel than that of Nero. Yet I agree with Robert that since we live in these days we Christians are called to submit to the authorities and not to re-write history, but by the same token you do not get to call upon the logic of the rebels of the past to justify your actions of today. Now brother Robert, you are certainly speaking to a former rebel. Prior to coming to Christ I glorified the American revolution because th

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ey stood up against the authorities that my own countrymen had fought and resisted for 1000 years. And yes, much pride in the notion that we withstood the Romans :) (Although I believe they thought there was simply not enough there to justify the effort:) Yet all of that is of the flesh. I discovered in Christ Jesus what true freedom was and I was captivated by actual freedom. It was the freedom wrought for us on the bloody battle-field of Calvary. It was given to us by Jesus and no man, no enemy can take this from us. Men's freedoms are fleeting, what man gains he can also lose. Political freedom is a pale imitation of the glorious freedom to be found in Christ. One is temporal, the other is eternal.....bro Frank

Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2012/7/23 17:31

hi, the question here in louisiana is should a christian use one of his guns to shoot someone who asks this question.jimplol

Re: - posted by Blayne, on: 2012/7/23 18:21

Hi! 'Jimp'

Since it was me who asked the question, "Should a Christian own a gun?", I suppose that I had better hope yer all poor shots down dere in Louisiana, ay?

I honestly cannot imagine living in some of those gang infested cities of the USA. Wakin' up in a gang populated city must be like having to eat SCARIOS every morning. (Simple Cherios wouldn't be sufficient).

It gives me (a foreigner) the absolute shivers jus' thinkin' that Americans would be wanting to bring the 2nd Amendment to where I live.

The city where I live (in Canada) is about 6 million people and, while we have the occasional shooting, it's nothing remotely resembling the vicious violence and mayhem that the 2nd Amendment is giving you folks. It's all so sad and fathomless to someone living on a more sane piece of real estate.

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2012/7/23 21:44

Where I Live almost everyone and seriously no exaggeration almost everyone I know have not one but several guns some people have 20 or more guns , we have almost zero gun violence, few people lock there doors even our church is never locked, I realize that many City people do not and can not comprehend this. Gun ownership does not mean gun violence.

Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2012/7/23 21:58

hi, actually louisiana is a canadian settlement(french)and it isn't the cities. we have gators and bears,boars and panthers etc.some yankees too.jimp

Re: - posted by Blayne, on: 2012/7/24 8:01

Hi! 'Jimp'

Well, git yerself ready for another four years of murder an' mayhem.
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/9067367/Mormon-Church-owns-unregulated-gun-sale-weBSITE.html>

Re: - posted by EverestoSama, on: 2012/7/24 8:33

Quote:
-----Should a Christian own a bottle of Drano?

Only if it's not Mormon.

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Computer - posted by proudpapa, on: 2012/7/24 9:03

Should a Christian own a computer ??

Most likely the percentage of computers owned to the percentage of computers used as an evil instrument is much higher than compared to the percentage of Guns owned to the percentage of Guns used as an evil instrument.

The Tragedy in Colorado is so rare that it has made Global headlines. (meditate on that reality) Many more people died that day in traffic accidents in the US than from gun violence. should we outlaw cars??

We can not honestly use Rev 13 v 10 as an anti Gun verse (he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword.)

Sword (Gun) ownership is nowhere taught as sin nor do I personally feel any conviction on the subject.

Re: - posted by pilgrim777, on: 2012/7/24 9:52

Quote:
-----Since when did truth lie in the hands of mens perceptions? The Scriptures are clear about submitting to authorities and the colonists were certainly rebels. rebelling against an authority way less cruel than that of Nero. Yet I agree with Robert that since we live in these days we Christians are called to submit to the authorities and not to re-write history, but by the same token you do not get to call upon the logic of the rebels of the past to justify your actions of today.

Amen, bro Apollus.

This is one reason why my fellow Americans elevate the U.S. Constitution to the level of the Bible and sometimes, higher than the Bible. The flesh is clever at self-justification, especially religious flesh (it killed the Son of God).

Pilgrim

Re: - posted by Sidewalk (), on: 2012/7/30 0:36

There are only two ways people interact with each other, reason and force. When there are no guns, the strong make all the decisions for those weaker. But with a gun, 80 year old granny has equal footing with 200 lb thug. Now Mr. Thug has to resort to reason with Granny or he's going to get plugged. Even playing fields make for civil societies.

The American founders, steeped in Christian thinking, gave all this lengthy consideration and concurred that citizens should be individually armed. This did not produce a chaotic prolonged gunfight, but peace and prosperity hither to unknown on the human stage.

The recent mass killings in the US and particularly with the guy in Norway had a chilling common feature. There wasn't anyone there to return fire and stop the slaughter. They just calmly reloaded several times and kept on killing.

The lady in Denver a couple years ago, on the security team at church, took down a man who entered the church with guns blazing. I'm sure glad she had her gun that day and was willing to use it.

During the Vietnam war I served as a medic with an infantry unit. I had gone into the service as a conscientious objector, I did not carry a weapon. But one day in a terrible battle I had to take up an M-16 to protect two men. "A time to heal" the Bible says, and a "time to kill." I know what that feels like, and His grace is sufficient even then.

(I did not need to fire the rifle- but I know I could have.)

Mostly I look at the character of those who think I shouldn't have a gun. And I think I'll stop right there.

Re: - posted by ccchhrrriiisss (), on: 2012/7/30 2:53

Hi Frank,

Quote:

Since when did truth lie in the hands of mens perceptions? The Scriptures are clear about submitting to authorities and the colonists were certainly rebels. rebelling against an authority way less cruel than that of Nero. Yet I agree with Robert that since we live in these days we Christians are called to submit to the authorities and not to re-write history, but by the same token you do not get to call upon the logic of the rebels of the past to justify your actions of today.

I think that you jumped to conclusions here.

First of all, I am not taking the side of what you conclude to be the "rebels" from 238 years ago. I am simply stating what they believed about themselves. They didn't see the Declaration of Independence as an act of "rebellion" against their own king. Rather, they explained it via the quote from the Declaration that I quoted earlier.

The founders stated in many writings that they were already self-governed through their own elected and appointed state authorities and had been for years. They stated their case that theirs was a government of consent...and that only political ties were binding the states with England. The founders argued that those political ties had become destructive in regard to consent and liberty and that, as self-governed states, had a right to "alter or abolish" those former ties.

Now, this is not from the "hands of men's perceptions" any more than those who paint a different picture of history. I am simply stating the views of the founders. Consequently, I strongly reject any insistence that I wrote this to "justify" my "actions of today."

Personally, I view my American citizenship as being immeasurable distant behind my Heavenly citizenship. The reign of kings, kingdoms, nations and even the opinions of men are fleeting in terms of expanse of Eternity.

Kings and kingdoms rise and fall. The oldest existing hereditary monarchy can only claim to trace itself for a couple of thousand years. Even the reigns of the "mighty" kings and empires eventually came to an end when others arose to take their place (or to simply reject the authority of the old order). I view the American nation as yet another nation that God ordained (Romans 13). In this case, it wasn't another kingdom that conquered an existing world power, but a government of consent.

In the sense of "liberty" or "rights" to bear arms, I stated that I have no reason to do so. I don't hunt because I buy my meat at supermarkets and restaurants. However, in answering the question posed in the first post, there are individuals who do so and I see nothing wrong with that.

Now, there is a legitimate debate regarding whether or not guns can be used for purposes other than hunting. I understand the views of some "non-resistance" brethren who view this as a conflict with the faith. Yet, I gave my thoughts earlier and I will simply leave it at that. I don't think that anyone here -- myself included -- should prop themselves up at the end-all authority of the matter. God's Word is the only truth on this matter...and there are obviously varying opinions on what the Word does or does not say on the matter.

Like you, I praise God for the true freedom that He has given me and the grace that I experience through Him. It transcends the temporary governments of man and provides the peace that passes all understanding to those whose hearts are resting in Him. Even if I was under the threat of death, imprisonment or torture from a hostile power, I understand that to live is Christ and to die is gain! I am prepared to live or die for the cause of Christ with His peace in my heart.

At the same time, I am glad to live in a nation that is still relatively free. There is a lot of responsibility in this. Americans and other free (or relatively free) nations have been given a valuable talent.

Today, a missionary spoke to our local congregation about the things that he has faced. I can't help but compare the liberty that we know here in America with the difficulties that he faces overseas. Yet, I also can't help but wonder if we have been a good investment. What have we done with the talents that God has given us? Are we burying them under the

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sands of religious discussions, arguments and/or assertions with other believers? Or, are we making the most of the opportunities for which we have been provided?

May the Lord help us to do what we can with what we have to bring about the increase that the Lord will provide!

Re: Should A Christian Own A Gun? - posted by Trekker, on: 2012/7/30 4:11

More hysteria about guns. I own a gun and if it is a sin to own one then it would have also been a sin for Peter to own the sword, which by the way, Jesus TOLD him to BRING along that night. If it is a sin to own a gun then it is also a sin to own a knife. Might as well say it is a sin to own a scissors too, since even that can be used to kill. Do you eat meat? That animal was killed so you could eat meat.

People who WANT to murder will find ways to murder no matter what. I have two or three encyclopedias of serial killers and you know what? Very rarely were guns used by them!

Re: - posted by Sidewalk (), on: 2012/7/30 14:17

One more quick opinion here.

There is a very subtle effort underway to verify and locate the guns in American homes. Particularly with medical intake interviews, there are new questions relating to mental health history and point blank questions about guns in the home.

I strongly suggest that when posting on any public forum like this one, you not affirm personal gun ownership. While all new guns being sold are being registered, thousands of guns are owned by families and individuals that precede those new laws.

A government afraid of the people they rule most certainly want to know where those guns are. Guns in the hands of citizens is a strong deterrent to tyranny, as has been so painfully learned in dozens of countries around the world where human slaughter was preceded by gun confiscation.

Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2012/7/30 16:42

Quote:
-----I hear what you are saying, but did not the American revolutionaries arm themselves because they were "afraid of the authorities?" Was Britain not "God's minister to you for good?" And if they were, was not this "right to bear arms," established in contradiction of God's word? Just some food for thought :) America has the highest murder rate per capita in the western world, four times higher than its nearest rivals. It also has a huge prison population, higher by far, by head of population than any other western country. Could this be a result of a basic violation of God's word or is it simply just the most violent country?bro Frank

Frank, et.al.: In all that I have studied about our war for independence, I see God's hand in breaking free from Great Britain and establishing this nation as a sovereign power. Surely this nation has played a great part in God's plans and purposes in this earth. I really believe that our declaring independence was ordained of God.

That being said, the point you brought up is food for thought. Obviously we know that when the authority demands of a Christian that which he cannot do in obedience to God then we must obey God rather than man. Obviously, if the authorities in my nation outlawed assembly for prayer and Bible study I would have to "forsake not the assembling..." regardless of what those authorities said.

It seems that the colonists saw the actions of Great Britain's leaders as unjust and their declaration of independence an act of obedience to God rather than to man. I guess it is debatable as to whether that really was the case, and we could analyze history to try to prove one way or the other. But not being there at the time causes any of our arguments to lose a great deal of force.

But the founders of our nation wrote great volumes speaking to their conviction that they were just before God in doing w

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hat they did. One has only to search online databases of Washington's writings and others to hear that they felt their actions Biblical and just before God. So whether they were right in resisting Great Britain or not could be, I guess, questionable, but they were convinced they were right in doing so, and I think I agree with them.

I think the question of whether it is right or wrong for a Christian to own a gun is a rather odd question. Pilgrim's questions point that out pretty well. A gun is a tool. I might use it to put food on my table, to protect myself from a wild animal, to fend a varmint's forays into my garden, for relaxation at the shooting range, or to defend my family from an aggressor. Another man might use it wrongly to try to take what does not belong to him, or to commit murder. The use is entirely dependent upon the man holding the tool.

Re: , on: 2012/7/30 17:57

In the midst of America and the right to bear arms. Jesus taught a different paradigm. First he said my kingdom is not of this world. Meaning we are of a spiritual kingdom. Not a temporal one. Sorry that kingdom is not America.

The second thing Jesus taught is all who draw the sword will die by the sword. No where do I see the New Testament teach lock and load for Jesus. And blow em away to kingdom come.

Just my thoughts.

Bearmaster.

Re: - posted by Sidewalk (), on: 2012/7/30 20:18

There is a local bail-bondsman here who advertises with this jingle:

"It's better to know me and not need me, than to need me and not know me!" When you need it and don't have it...?

I think it is largely a given in this conversational theater that guns are not Jesus' weapon of choice. Nor swords for that matter. Here it is better by far to teach, to persuade, to enlighten, and to comfort one another with studied wisdom.

Even in desperate human events we should call upon that mighty Name, even to invoke it to stop demonic criminal acts. This is the course of men and women of faith, and there is no better place to be than to be speaking the Will of God to an evil world.

The gun thing to me is to be understood on a more political level, where honorable men defend those who cannot physically defend themselves with force the world understands. It has nothing to do with the force used by governments and some religious systems to secure the obedience of the helpless. Those who draw that sword certainly will die by it as the Lord has spoken.

A vigorous back and forth over this issue here can't hurt, and may help some clarify in their own hearts where they stand. But when you see corrupt government officials working in evil ways to disarm the population, watch out!

The Fast and Furious scandal was a direct attempt to make it look like the easy availability of guns in the US was arming the drug cartels. The truth is still being suppressed in this matter, but it exposes some very embarrassing ugliness. Christians who ignore these political issues and don't vote for righteous candidates may find the gun ownership issue standing on their doorstep in a blue uniform.

I'm probably wading into much deeper water than I want to be in, but I grieve to see my country fall into such sin as to give God no choice but to bring judgement. Whether you own a gun or not, believe in the second amendment or not, please do this:

Pray for the Awakening America so desperately needs, and vote for candidates who understand how precious freedom is...was??

Re: - posted by pilgrim777, on: 2012/7/30 21:14

With the doctrine of "defending" yourself (by the arm of the flesh) Christians end up killing Christians.

During the War Between the States you had Christians in the North killing Christians in the South.

In World War II, German Christians were conscripted into the Military and became part of the Nazi machine. While that was happening, American Christians were told that it was their "Christian duty" to take up arms and defend this worldly nation called America. End result? American Christians killing German Christians and vice-versa.

Luk 6:27 But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you,

Luk 6:28 Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.

Luk 6:29 And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not to take thy coat also.

Luk 6:30 Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again.

Luk 6:31 And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.

Pilgrim

Re: - posted by Sidewalk (), on: 2012/7/30 23:29

I remember in boot camp where I was assigned to a school to learn to be a medic. I was with a group of men like myself who had been conscripted for the war effort in Vietnam. My other choices would have been to run from the country or learn to be a killer. The conscientious objector route seemed to be the most practical, though I wanted none of it.

Knowing what loomed over all our heads, the conversations in the barracks were pretty intense as we all pondered and justified our Christian obligations against the military duties we were under. Mike D'Angelo swore he would not ever use a weapon... But when his unit was pinned down and getting overrun with Vietcong, many of the other men dead or wounded, he did what he had to do, saving the life of his wounded Captain.

It's different when you're there, suddenly the guns are blasting, people are screaming, bodies crumpling, and all the discussions and philosophizing are lost. You fight, you kill fast because more are coming, your head goes empty and your mouth is so dry you couldn't utter a prayer if you wanted to.

Funny how in Jesus' teaching, He used the illustration of the King going out to battle and considering how many troops he would need to accomplish a victory. He knew all about this stuff, and spoke the narrative of human conflict. The human story has always been one of war, and it's not over yet. And when Jesus spoke to the Roman soldiers He told them only to be content with their wages. He who created the world did not use power to halt human killing.

I grew up in the idyllic American fifties. Lived in the country, had a dad who loved my Mom, became a Christian early in life. I went off to war under the yoke of stupid political realities, a timid little kid scared to death. I came back an experienced soldier, with images in my mind and heart that will never leave.

Yet it was good, because of the grace I received to know and love God with all my heart. I saw how He took what I could in no way appreciate and used it to implant His Son in my soul.

I have heard Him utter words to me in my heart I have no right to hear-

"You are My son, whom I love, and with whom I am well pleased!"