

The Christian and War

Often, the issues that confront us as Christians are highly charged emotionally. As with any emotional issue, we must be careful to divorce ourselves from a purely emotional response and search the Scriptures for our answers to these difficult questions. We must also be careful to realize that it might not be as easy as finding a “thou shalt” or “thou shalt not” in the Bible. Often, we must make our determinations on the acceptability of an action or belief by applying principles found therein.

The issue of war, capital punishment and Christians serving as policemen all fall under the category under discussion here. If one is authorized, they all are. The strongest argument in support of a Christian’s ability to see these as acceptable (the proper position, in my mind) is found in Romans 13:1-7. There, Paul describes the authority bestowed upon government by God. To resist that authority is to resist God Himself. He further states that these rulers are God’s ministers to do good.

War has always been a part of man’s history and has been sanctioned, commanded and used by God to carry out His providential efforts on man’s behalf. Passages such as 1 Samuel 15:3 show God commanding leaders to fight those opposing forces in battle. To deny its validity, in my opinion, is to place God in the position of commanding someone to sin.

War, police work and capital punishment have never been and will never be pleasant. I appreciate those who serve in that capacity and the freedoms it provides and maintains. May we be those who hold up the hands of those in these God-sanctioned positions!

Sermon: “The Christian and War”

1. Initial Texts: Gen. 9:6; 2:24; 3:16-19
2. Murder is a violation of these eternal principles
3. An analysis of Rom. 13:1-7
4. Arguments against such authorized acts fail (Matt. 7:12; Rom. 13:8-10)
5. Is war an authorized or unauthorized act? (1 Sam. 15:3)

P.M. Sermon: Questions and Answers