

A Case for Guns and Self-Defense

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Gen. 9:6, "Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed. For in the image of God he made man."

The Jerry Falwell, John Piper Disagreement: Falwell's view is to use lethal force as Christians against harmful adversaries. Piper's view rejects the use of lethal force to better offer the love of Christ. What does the Bible teach?

1. We have an Obligation to Preserve Life, even our own!

1Cor.6:19,20; Psa.82:2-4; Prov.24:11

- a) We protect human life with personal alarms (Ezek.33:6).
- b) We protect human life with safety systems (Deut.22:8).
- c) We protect human life by killing dangerous animals (Exod.21:29-31).
- d) We protect human life by killing dangerous people (Gen.9:5-6).

2. The Old Testament Supports Lethal Force and Self-defense.

There are several qualifiers to the command "thou shalt not murder" (Exod.20:13).

- a) Killing is justified for capital crimes (Lev.24:16-17).
- b) Killing is justified for neglecting to install safety systems (Deut.22:8; Exod.21:29-31).
- c) Killing is justified for breaking and entering when caught in the act (Exod.22:2-3).
- d) Killing is justified to defend lives, homes and families (Neh.4:8-23).
- e) Killing is justified for warfare self-defense (Esth.8:11,12).
- f) Killing is not justified for accidental manslaughter (Exod.21:12-15, Num.35:6-34, Deut.19:1-13).

3. The New Testament Supports Lethal Force and Self-defense.

Jesus directs a sword purchase for travels and ministry (Luke 22:35-39, 49-53).

- a) Jesus expected the possession of a weapon for life needs.
- b) Jesus acknowledges weapons as good.
- c) Jesus approved of an open carry of their swords while traveling from city to city as well as to their garden prayer meeting.
- d) Jesus acknowledges the right of self-defense (Luke 22:49-53).

4. Should We carry a Weapon?

- a) *The possession of weapons is never discouraged by God in his word (Luke 22:36; 1Sam.13:19-22).*
- b) *The possession of lethal weapons is never expected to be a possession of all people (Exod.20:13; Gen.9:5,6).*
- c) *God is to be praised for our good use of weapons when it is God's gift for our possession (Psa.18:34; 144:1).*

5. Guidelines for the Right Use of Guns and Lethal Force

- a) We should never put our hope or ultimate trust in our weapons but in God alone (Ps. 44:6, 7; Neh.4:14; 1Sam.17:47).
- b) We should never to take up weapons to use unjustly (1Sam.25:32,33; Gal.5:23; Titus 1:7; Luke 6:27-30; Rom.12:18,19; Rom.13:1-7).
- c) We should always prefer love over violence (Prov.3:31,32).
- d) We have warrant and freedom to possess and use personal weapons, but should seek self-denial over self-defense when we are able (Luke 9:23; 2Pet.1-5-10; Ps.121:5).