

The Bible and Guns

1 Samuel 13:19-22

It seems each time there is a mass shooting, like the February 14th shooting in Parkland Florida, the news media is right there to add fuel to the burning issue of gun control. The media has politicized gun related violence.



Last week's public debates about guns were emotionally charged and highly contentious events. Without a doubt, gun violence is epidemic.

I think it is a good idea to re-examine gun laws and consider if there may be some revisions that should be made. We should **also** check if there are current gun laws that are not being enforced.

In this sermon let's consider what God has to say about this. What does the Bible say about Christians and weapons?

I. A DISARMED PEOPLE

- ➔ It has been said, "God, Guns, and Guts Made America Great." Some think it strange to use the word "God" and "guns" in the same sentence in a positive sense. Yet, I believe history confirms that statement to be true. The American Revolution would never have happened with gun control.

Consider the following quote:

"This earth will go down in history. For the first time, a civilized nation has fallen to a regime of gun control! One day we will be a police state more efficient, and the world will follow our lead in our efforts!" Adolph Hitler said that in 1935 as the Nazis gained control of Germany. WW2 started four years later!

- ➔ Gun control? The only kind of "gun control" I believe in is using two hands while shooting instead of one! Any other gun control will eventually lead to *gun confederation!*

A. In 1 Samuel 13:19-22 we see what happens when God's people have no weapons to either defend their families or their land.

1 Samuel 13:19-22—*No hero appeared here to help them, for the Philistines had gathered against them, and the Hebrews were in a state of confusion. The Philistines were in the land of Israel, and the Hebrews were in a state of confusion.*

and his axe, and his mattock. Yet he had a file for the mattock, and for the chisel, and for the fork, and for the axe, and to sharpen the goad. So it came upon him that day of battle, that **there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people** that were in the land of Judah: but in the land of Judah there was found.

B. A defenseless people are vulnerable to attack (cf. Judges 5:8). A disarmed people will soon become an enslaved people. This truth was the basis of the Second Amendment of our Constitution.

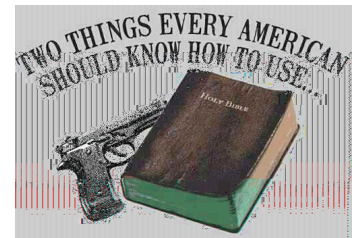
1. When Germany began bombing England and threatened to invade them, the British citizens were faced with a dilemma—Their government had disarmed them during the 1930's. They had nothing but clubs, hoes, and pitchforks to fight with! It was the United States who sent them shiploads of guns and ammo that enabled them to arm their citizens and make Hitler think twice about his invasion plans!
2. Switzerland requires every able-bodied citizen to own and keep assault weapons at home and be able to use them proficiently. The entire citizenry is armed to the teeth, yet statistically they are among the most law-abiding people on earth.

II. A DEFENSIVE POLICY

A. After King Saul was killed in battle by a Philistine archer (1 Sam. 31:3), David initiated a policy to arm and train the populace. Notice 2 Samuel 1:18— *Altogether bade he each the children of Judah that they should be armed: behold, it is written in the book of Jasher.*

1. David was a man after God's own heart (1 Sam. 13:14), and God called David, *a man of war* (1 Chron. 28:3). God is also called *a man of war* (Ex. 15:3).
2. God approved of David's defense policy (cf. 1 Sam. 25:13).

- God never said it was wrong to own a weapon.
- It is a good idea for every father should teach his son/daughter how and when to use a weapon. I saw a poster with a picture of a Bible and a hand gun—The caption read: **Two Things Every American Should Know How To Use.**



- B. What about the sixth commandment, *Thou shalt not kill* (Ex. 20:13). Jesus interpreted this to mean murder (Mt. 19:16-18).
1. Ex. 21:12-16—God authorizes capital punishment
 2. Ex. 22:2—God authorizes self-defense. Someone noted— “God made some men big and some men small, but Samuel Colt made all men the same size.”
 3. Ex. 23:20-33—God approves of the fighting of wars (Ps. 144:1).
- C. Jesus advocated arming yourself (Luke 22:35-36, 38).
- Didn't Jesus tell Peter to put up his sword? Yes, but that was because Peter was trying to prevent Jesus' arrest and eventual crucifixion. Jesus came to be crucified. And, Jesus never told Peter to get rid of his sword altogether.
- D. Does owning a gun mean a person is not trusting God? Some may object, “Shouldn't we trust God to protect us?” Of course.
1. At the same time, we should also do whatever is necessary to

- **FACT:** Six of the deadliest mass shootings committed in the United States since 2005 were committed by young men without fathers living in the home. Studies show that young men without dads are roughly three times more likely to carry a gun and deal with drugs than those living with a father.¹

1. Guns are not evil. The problem is not the gun, but the person who fires the gun. "Guns don't kill people—people kill people."

- If guns cause crime, then pens cause rubber checks.
- If guns cause crime, then matches/lighters cause arson.

2. Several years ago **Paul Harvey** discussed the tragic shooting at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo. Harvey said:

"If only the parents had kept their children away from those guns, we wouldn't have had such a tragedy. *Yeah, i m ha e been ho e g n* . It couldn't have been because half of our children are being raised in broken homes. It couldn't have been because we place our children in day care centers where they learn their socialization skills among their peers, while employees who have no vested interest in the children look on and make sure no blood gets spilled. It couldn't have been because we allow our children to watch, on average, seven hours of television a day filled with the glorification of sex and violence that isn't fit for adult consumption. It couldn't have been because our nation is the world leader in developing a culture of death in which 20 to 30 million babies have been killed by abortion. It couldn't have been because we give out two-year prison sentences to people who kill their own young. It couldn't have been because our school systems teach the children that they are nothing but glorified apes who have evolved out of some primal soup by teaching evolution as fact and by handing out condoms as if they were candy. It couldn't be because we teach our children that there are no laws of morality that transcend us, that everything is relative and that actions don't have consequences. ***Nah, it must have been the guns.***"

B. Many are quick to blame gun violence on mental illness.

Consider this February 3, 2018 Fox News article: ***How prevalent is mental illness in mass shootings?*** This article questions the extent to which mental illness plays mass shootings, and what is meant by mental illness. For example...

“Many widely cited studies, including some conducted by the National Institutes of Health, on gun violence show that anywhere between 4 and 20 percent of gun violence incidents are caused by people with a serious mental illness.” [NOTE: If only 20% of incidents involving gun violence is attributed to mental illness, that means 80% are NOT the result of mental illness. AH]

Jeffrey Swanson, a professor in psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Duke University who specializes in gun violence and mental illness, conducted a study funded in part by the National Institutes of Health that found only 4 percent of gun and other violence is traceable to schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and depression.

Swanson says the role of mental illness is overplayed after a shooting that grips the country. He said, “If we were to cure mental illness, all of it, tomorrow, how much of our violence problem would go down? It would go down about 4 percent.”

Swanson also noted, “A mass shooting is so disturbing, so irrational, and horrifying, people want to know why it happened, and mental illness is the perfect master explanation.”

C. The **REAL** problem—The heart of the problem is a problem of the heart. Jesus said, *For o of he hear proceed e il ho gh , MURDERS, ad l erie , fornication , thefts* (Mt. 15:19).

1. Murder is in the heart, and the choice of weapon is an incidental matter when a man decides to murder another.
 - When Cain murdered Abel, God did not condemn the murder weapon (rock; stick; knife). He condemned the man who committed the crime.
2. You cannot legislate away evil or murder. No legislation can change the human heart.
 - Our society is living in a “moral freefall.” Human life is no longer considered sacred.
 - It is woefully inconsistent to demand more gun laws to protect human life while condoning the killing of over 4,000 innocent lives every day through abortion.

SUMMATION: Taking guns out the hands of law abiding citizens is not the answer to our violent society. Taking sin out of the heart is! Only Jesus can do that!

ⁱ http://jimdaly.focusonthefamily.com/going-beyond-gun-control-debates/?refcd=594702&utm_campaign=594702&utm_medium=email&utm_source=announcements