



The Gospel and Gun Ownership

MAIN THING

When Power is Out of Balance, There is Violence; When Power is in Balance, There Is Peace

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:44, John 18:10, Exodus 20:13, Psalm 20:7, 1 John 5:19, Romans 13:1, Psalm 18:32-34, Romans 12:18, Psalm 82:3-4, Isaiah 2:4

ICEBREAKER

The one thing that people put on food that immediately ruins it is

OPENING THOUGHT

Christians are the most peaceful people on the planet. We follow a savior who never led an army (unlike Mohammed), never held political office, never travelled more than 100 miles from His hometown, and who was martyred by authorities. We've been told to turn the other cheek, to love our enemies, to forgive and not take revenge. Those things are essential and central to our faith.

Why, then, is there the good old stereotype of "God and guns?" Why would the most peaceful people on the planet seem to have an affinity for firearms? Not only that, but does the Bible have anything to say about it? Yes it does.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one thing that stood out to you from this weekend's message?
2. The sermon identified two ways that peace is achieved: 1) trusting in the goodness of people to be peaceful, and 2) Balance the power between all sides. Which do you think is the best way? Which is the way that you believe is more consistent with what the Bible teaches?
3. There are strong feelings about this topic on both sides of it. What valid points does the OTHER side, the side you don't fall upon, have?

LIFE APPLICATION

Gun ownership is a political football being tossed around- it has been and always will be. The question constantly plagues Christians and the church- is gun ownership among Christians the right thing? Is it ever the right thing to use lethal force against another human being, regardless of the situation? Some would say yes. Some would say no. This question will always be around until Isaiah 2:4 happens in the future.

As the culture war progresses, private gun ownership will continue to be put on the table. Freedom and liberty are concepts that are worth fighting for, as demonstrated by our forefathers in 1776. It may be that private gun ownership is the only thing that protects those concepts so near and dear to us as Americans.

CHALLENGE

There is a right way and a wrong way to own firearms. If you don't plan on following the five rules for Christian Gun Owners, please do not purchase or own a firearm. For Christians that believe in gun ownership and believe that private gun ownership is essential to freedom, liberty, and safety, please take a concealed carry class or other class that teaches you laws, firearm safety, and how to do so correctly.