



*Crisp Questions...
... Fresh Answers!*

WHEN IS VIOLENCE THE RIGHT RESPONSE TO CONFLICT?

Introduction – “Ya, but what if...?”

When is the destructive use of power justified?

Matthew 26:52

Is Jesus insane? Turning the world upside-

The starting point: You must give _____ up to follow Jesus

1. Your own _____
Matthew 16:24-25; Mark 8:34-35; John 12:23-25
2. Your _____ and loved ones
Matthew 10:37-39; Luke 14:25-27
3. Your _____
Matthew 19:16-30

Does this lead to a martyrdom complex? A religious suicide?

John 10:7-13 – Life and life to the full

Laying down force for a more powerful weapon

How does enemy love work practically?

1. The best time to love your enemy is _____ your enemy is ready to kill you
2. _____ rather than protectionism
3. Willing to _____ rather than cause _____

The most effective way to _____ an enemy is to turn him into your _____. The best safe guard for your loved ones is to break the _____ of violence and hatred through self-sacrificial _____.

**Matthew 5:38-48; Luke 6:27-31
Deuteronomy 19:21; Psalm 139:19-22**

Conclusion – Going on the offensive?

Following God’s example – we don’t have to _____ for an enemy to attack to take them out.

Romans 5:8-10

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. After briefly reviewing this week’s message, share one thing that most challenged you.
2. Discuss this quote: “You must scream to stop the screaming, attack to stop the fighting, kill to stop the killing. Just look at the history of the human race. The evidence speaks for itself.” ~*anonymous*

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Review **Matthew 5;38-48 and Romans 5;8-10**. a) When Scripture is so clear about God loving us, his enemies, and Jesus commanding us to love our enemies, why do you think we struggle so much to accept this teaching? B) What do we as humans find attractive about using force to solve our conflicts or disagreements? C) How does society honor the use of force rather than working towards peace?
4. In Matthew 5:38-48 Jesus gives a number of examples of ways to love your enemy. See if you can come up with ten examples that fit within our life context today.

SO WHAT?...

5. The best practice for loving your enemies is usually found in your own family. How can loving a family member teach you about loving enemies? What can you do practically this week to love an “enemy” in your own home?
6. Who could be our enemies within our neighborhood, city, nation and the world? Pick a few possible enemies and brainstorm how your home church could go on the offensive to love them into friendship.
7. What life changes do you need to make to enable you to love your enemies? What emotional hurdles do you need to get over to love your enemies.

HOMEWORK...

8. Find one person who is a challenge and practically love and serve them this week.
9. Pray for God’s leadership on how you can love those who oppose you.

Tim Day @ The Meeting House – Sunday, October 9/16, 2005