



WAR.

WHAT IS IT GOOD FOR?

Introduction – The Missiles Are Flying

Proverbs 24:29
James 3:9
Matthew 5:9

How Did We Get Here?

... Our Journey Away From Jesus

- *The Teachings & Example of Jesus...*
Matthew 5:38-48
Luke 6:27-36
John 13:34; 15:12; 18:36
Romans 5:10
- *The Early Church's Uncompromising Stand (First 2 Centuries)...*
Romans 12:18
1 Peter 2:21-23
- *The Emperor's New Clothes (Constantine, 312 CE)...*
- *The Birth of Christendom...*
Romans 13:1-7
- *Augustine (4th Century) & Aquinas (13th Century)*
– *Growing a Fruitless Tree...*
Matthew 7:15-20
Romans 13:10

- *Pope Urban II (1095) – From “Just War” to “Holy War” ...*
- *The Reformation's Rationalization ...*
- *The Anabaptists' Radical Return to Jesus' Teaching & Example ...*

Romans 8:29
1 Peter 2:21-23

Conclusion – If God Were President...

(And We Were Saddam Hussein)

Romans 5:10

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. After reviewing your sermon notes, talk about one thing that was most new, encouraging, or perplexing to you in this week's message.
2. Explore and discuss this quote from Denis Blyer: *“If Christ himself took a position concerning how to deal with our enemies, then only that should be labeled the truly Christian position. The rest would simply be non-Christian positions, even if certain Christians hold them.”*

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Read **Romans 12:9-13:10**. a) What verses stand out to you as being most relevant to our discussion about war and peace? b) What are some ways we as Christ-followers could practically obey **12:9**? c) How could a Christian in government, say, an American president, obey **12:14-21** in ways that makes him/her a successful government official AND an obedient Christ-follower? Is it possible to do both well? d) How would **13:4** tend to be used to support “just war” theology? How does the context make it difficult for a Christian to become involved in a “just war”? e) How is God's sovereignty (his power and authority) used by Paul in this passage to bring comfort to Christians who might be going through difficult times?

SO WHAT?...

4. Read **1 Peter 2:21-23**. a) Take a few minutes to prayerfully meditate on these verses. b) What one thing could you do this week to better walk in the steps of Jesus? c) Who do you need to actively love and bless, even though they have hurt you? d) Pray for each other in light of this.
5. As a group, read **1 Timothy 2:1-3** and pray along those lines.

SPECIAL PRAYER FOCUS...

Bruy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, March 22, 2003