

Where Eagles Dare

Can Christians Kill?

By Al Collins

I receive regular updates from around the world, in addition to the regular news services online, that usually ignore this news, that tell me of the Christians in many countries who are being brutalized and murdered, just because they're Christian. One of the things that always amazes me is that I never hear about Christians physically fighting back to protect themselves and their families. I understand this thinking as I was raised in "church" and we were always taught to "turn the other cheek" and "love your enemies" so we all took that doctrine to mean that we put up with anything that's dished out to us, even if we're in the process of being murdered! But is this doctrine really what God means and wants for His children?

Should we all just sit back and do nothing other than allow the police and military to do any "dirty work" that we can't or won't do?

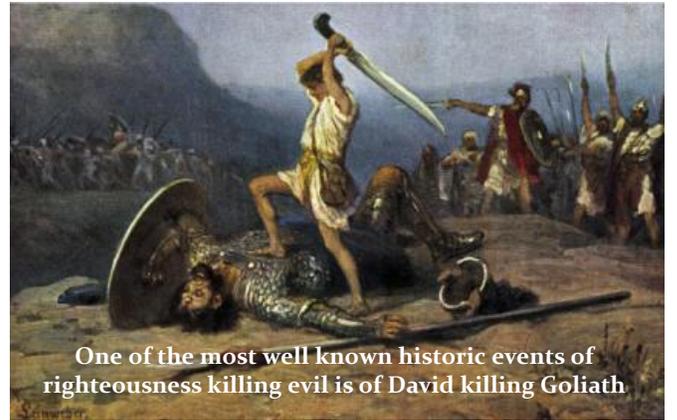
Are Christian soldiers and police sinning when they must kill others to protect themselves and society?

Can a person be both a Christian and soldier or a law enforcement officer?

What is Biblical truth about this controversial issue?

The 6th commandment in **Exodus 20** was mistranslated and taken out of context (satan's hand in this "mistake" is evident). The correct translation from Hebrew says "Thou shall not murder." It refers to killing for your own personal gain; it has nothing to do with killing under lawful authority.

God says in **Acts 13:22** that King David was "a man after My own heart" yet David was a man of war



One of the most well known historic events of righteousness killing evil is of David killing Goliath that the Bible says "killed his tens of thousands" (**1 Samuel 18:7**). It was only when David arranged one man's murder (Uriah) in order to get his wife, did he get in trouble with God. That's one man out of the tens of thousands he killed or had killed in war by others that was a sin.

The Old Testament is full of such righteous warrior leaders of God. Moses, Joshua and Gideon are just a few of the hundreds of warriors who found favor in God's eyes for their labors on the battlefield. God says in **Proverbs 6:17** that "He hates shedders of innocent blood", but there's nothing but honor in the Bible for the soldier who kills in just combat against evil. Killing in war, under righteous (God's righteousness, not mans), lawful authority, is presented as honorable and acceptable throughout the Bible.

In the New Testament the story is the same.

Jesus praised the Roman Centurion in **Matthew 8:10** for his great faith. There's never a mention from Jesus that this man is a sinner or that he should stop being a soldier.

And in **Acts 10**, the 1st non-Jewish Christian was designated by God, Cornelius... a Roman Centurion. Peter was shocked when God sent him to convert him, but it was because he was a non-Jew. No one ever questioned that a soldier should have the honor of being the first non-Jewish Christian.

Most of **Acts 10** is devoted to Peter's sermon to the centurion Cornelius and his guidance as to how to be a Christian, but never once does Peter or anyone else anywhere in the Bible state that it is incompatible to be a soldier and a Christian... the exact opposite is communicated over and over again.

Examining **Luke 22:36**, just minutes before His arrest and subsequent crucifixion, Jesus commanded his disciples... "He said to them, "But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don't have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one." Jesus is saying a sword is more important to have with you than your coat! These men weren't soldiers, but Christian leaders Jesus was talking to... swords were used to protect them, their families, and each other when physically attacked by lawless robbers and murderers.

A further proof of this command of carrying a weapon and using it when attacked is when soldiers came to arrest Jesus, we see Peter drawing and using his sword. This proves that Peter carried a sword with Jesus' knowledge and had no hesitation in using it.

Next we read what seems like a contradiction to Jesus' command when he tells Peter to put the sword away saying, "He that lives by the sword shall die by the sword" (**Matthew 26:52**) meaning that if the sword is your personal law (same as **Exodus 20** meaning), you should die by the sword. Jesus said this because the soldiers arresting him were operating under the law, which is different than those operating outside the law (i.e. murderers, criminals, terrorists).

God is crystal clear throughout His Word on this subject.

Law enforcement officers and soldiers are not sinning when confronted with the lethal realities of their position. Any sense of guilt, conviction or shame for doing what needs to be done is brought to them by the evil kingdom, not by God.

We also learn from God's Word that civilians are immune from sin and guilt when operating in lawful self defense. Society's laws also allow for self defense. Not revenge, but self defense.

We can hope the police and military will prevent assaults from happening against us and the innocent but facts are that they can't be everywhere. Usually the police can do nothing until after the crime (assault/murder) is done and in many muslim countries the authorities do nothing to interfere with or stop violence against Christians, most times under muslim government authority.

Besides criminal acts, there are war atrocities, terrorist acts, religious hatred, mob violence and random violence that civilians can be suddenly confronted with that will kill them, their family and others if they decide to do nothing.

I realize that killing can be a subject that people don't want to think about or talk about but as I write in my book, over 45 million Christians were murdered in the 20th century just because they were Christian. That's an average of 1233 Christians a day every day for 100 years! This is an atrocity that is only escalating. Statistic from Prophecy News Watch November 1, 2012: "About 200 million church members (10 per cent of the global total) face discrimination or persecution"! Don't become one of these statistics! God doesn't ask His children to lie down under the wheels of evil that are killing them! Its satan's doctrine that wants Christians persecuted and dead.

Everyone has the right to physically protect themselves, their families and other innocents when physically assaulted and attacked by others (i.e. muslims, thieves, rapists, predators, etc.) even if you have to kill them to get them to stop. We must remember that they are the ones that are living by the sword with their lawless actions and thus solely responsible for what comes to them when you're defending yourself. Thus, their decision fulfills Jesus' declaration that they "shall die by the sword".

It's time for Christians to take Jesus' advice and sell their cloak and buy a sword if they don't have one... and use it when the situation warrants it! Nowadays carrying a sword isn't practical or even lawful, but in keeping with Jesus' meaning we are to be ready if attacked to give "the sword" or destruction to attacker(s). How you go about this wherever you are is your decision whether you're allowed to have firearms or can only carry improvised weapons or become self-proficient in unarmed combat. Praying and hoping nothing happens to you is not what Jesus said in **Luke 22:36**. God's people were many times protected from physical attack; however, they were still expected to conduct physical battle.

As Christians our goals are to be obedient to God, look to the Great Commission to reach others for Christ, set captives free, and advance the Kingdom of God... these aren't our only functions as we must operate in a physical realm that is behind enemy lines that uses any means available to destroy us, including evil people. God doesn't expect us to tolerate physical attacks from people any more than He expects us to tolerate spiritual attacks from evil spirits, unless He specifically advises us to do something different for a particular situation.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" 1 Peter 5:8. "... he (satan) was a murderer from the beginning..." John 8:44. Evil spirits work through people driving them to murder others! A great deception of satan is embraced and taught by "church" doctrines that Christians must do nothing and withstand being physically attacked and murdered, even when it comes against women and children. Don't allow the enemy to destroy you spiritually or physically. It isn't practical, wise or Biblical! Train hard... be prepared!