

THE BIBLICAL RESPONSE TO SELF-DEFENSE

Pastor Larry Webb

Reference: miscellaneous Scripture

Inside this heated debate on gun violence is the fundamental question about self-defense: Do we have biblical permission to defend ourselves and others against potential harm and especially is it ever permissible to use lethal force in self-defense?

Definition: **Self-defense** is _____ oneself from being injured through the actions of another.

Definition: **Christian pacifism** is the theological and ethical position that violence is _____ with the Christian faith.

Christian pacifists argue that Jesus Himself both encouraged and practiced pacifism and we should do the same. Numerous biblical passages teach otherwise:

Reference: **Revelation 19:11, 13, 15; Ecclesiastes 3:1-8** (see screen)

References: **Psalms 18:34; 144:1; James 4:17** (see screen)

There are some biblical passages both pacifists and gun control advocates use or misuse to teach that nonviolence is the biblical norm.

References: **John 18:10-11; Matthew 5:38-39;**

Exodus 20:13 (KJV) (see screen)

I am a reasonable gun rights advocate for of two basic reasons:

ONE... because the United States constitution _____ and _____ someone's fundamental right to own, possess and use firearms if we do so in a responsible manner.

"A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed".

Second Amendment to the US Constitution

December 15, 1791

That amendment consists of two clauses:

The **justification** clause states the _____ a right is being secured and a **rights** clause defines the specific _____ that is being secured.

- The **justification** clause: "*A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state...*"
- The **rights** clause: "*...the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.*"

Second amendment critics argue that it is the militia's right to bear arms this amendment is protecting and not the individual's right to bear arms.

Four reasons that is not the case:

- That's not how the second amendment _____.
- The _____ understood this amendment to protect the individual civilian's rights to bear arms.
- Before the US Constitution existed most of the constitutions from the thirteen _____ had clauses protecting the right to keep and bear arms.
- The **US Supreme Court** has consistently ruled that the second amendment secures the people's rights to bear arms.

TWO... because the _____ recognizes and secures someone's fundamental right to use lethal force in self-defense (i.e. own, possess and use firearms if we do so in a responsible manner).

Reference: **Exodus 22:2 and 3** (see screen)

Reference: **Nehemiah 4:13-14; 16-18** (see screen)

Reference: **Luke 11:21-22** (see screen)

This account illustrates three principles:

- Someone is safe from assault if he is sufficiently _____ and strong enough to defend himself from the perpetrator.
- Force has to be met with more _____.
- This is also a _____ against trusting in our own might, abilities, and firearms.

Reference: **Matthew 24:43** (see screen)

Reference: **Luke 22:36, 38** (see screen)