

“What Would Jesus Say About The War?”

Matthew 5:38-48 Romans 13:1-7

March 23, 2003 Pastor Harry Skeele

Introduction:

I. God calls Christians to a high regard for _____ and _____.

1. Christian _____.

2. Christian development of “_____” theory

But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. ⁴⁰And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. ⁴¹If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. ⁴²Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. ⁴³You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor^[8] and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴But I tell you: Love your enemies^[9] and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. Matthew 5

¹Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God... the one in authority... is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Romans 13

Principle: civil rulers are justified in _____.

“(Nor) is it fitting for a Christian to be a magistrate because the authorities governance is according to the flesh, but the Christian’s is according to the spirit. Their weapons of conflict and war are carnal and only directed against the fortifications of the devil. Worldly people are armed with spikes and iron but Christians are armed with the armor of God.” Schleitheim Articles, 1527

3. Seven criteria for a _____ war

1. Only a legitimate _____ may start a just war.
2. A just war must be waged for a _____
3. It must be a last _____.
4. There must be a formal _____ of _____.
5. There must be a reasonable hope of _____.
6. The means used to fight the war must not constitute a _____ than the evil the war was intended to fix.
7. The deliberate, intentional _____ of _____ violates just war principles.

4. Seven biblical principles that undergird _____.

a. All human beings are created in the image of God, they have _____ and _____.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them. Gen 1:27

b. We must never deliberately take _____ human _____.

You shall not murder Exodus 20:13

c. God is a God of both _____ and _____, and he expects both from us.

²³ This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD. Jer 9:23,24

He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

d. God expects us to be patient, and to put up with _____ from others.

If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Matt 5:41

e. God expects us to _____ others as we would be _____.

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets Matt 7:12

f. God establishes governments to _____, and entrusts them with the responsibility of taking life.

³For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. ⁴For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Romans 13

g. God _____ in the world, and He expects us to _____ it also.

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Rom 12:9

5. Can the US war against Iraq be called just?

II. Application

1. _____
"First of all pray... for kings and all others who are in authority, that we may live a quiet and peaceful life..." 1 Timothy 2:1-2

2. _____
"The Lord is my light and salvation – whom shall I fear? ... Though an army besiege me... and war break out against me, even then I will be confident." Ps 27:1,3

3. _____
"Turn from evil and do good. Seek peace and pursue it!" Ps 34:14

4. _____
"Carry each other's burden ... and fulfill the law of Christ." Gal 6:4