

Missio Dei Fellowship exists to glorify God by delighting in Him and making Him known through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

War, Violence and The Christian, Pt 2

Selected Passages

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PowerPoint Presentation included: none

SermonAudio Blurb: In light of the massive amount of violence occurring in Israel and the Gaza Strip, we take time to consider the source and causes of war and how does a Christian begin to approach a very complicated subject. Many opinions flow on this subject but not a lot of biblical thinking. We seek to begin to remedy this.

I. Introduction.

- A. We continue with this brief examination of war, violence and the Christian.
 - 1. In my introduction to this whole subject we focused on the ultimate underlying cause of all war and violence. It is due to sin.
 - 2. This is the critical point to know and we saw this together in my last sermon.
 - 3. Ignored or rejected by non-Christians who then have to create some sort of worldview that tries to explain why bad things happen and why people do bad things.
 - 4. What is sad is the number of believers who keep thinking that this age is supposed to deliver a level of peace, joy and fulfillment, as if sin does not infect everything to the fullest.
 - 5. Sin is the great enemy of us all.
 - 6. But more important is the fact that if there is something that is objectively called sin and evil, then we are accountable in some way for what we are and do. And so it is suppressed, renamed, and ignored. It means that there is Someone who stands above it all declaring something to be good or evil. Sin cannot be in the eye of the beholder.
 - a. Sin brings death to all.
 - b. Sin brings guilt.
 - c. Sin bring shame.
 - d. Sin brings judgment.
 - e. Sin bring enslavement.

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- f. Sin is the tool of Satan.
 - g. Take sin away and you find that death and Satan no longer really matter.
7. But because sin is the preeminent corrupting power in this world we work hard at calling it everything and anything but sin. And this is how we can look at war with emotionless eyes or excited eyes—because we see it as an expression of something other than sin.
- B. Yet when talking about war there are many secondary causes for it as well. But all flowing from the fountain called “sin.”
- 1. But one stands out as a key reason for war and it can be rather complex as you begin to unravel all of the threads found in any conflict.
 - 2. The cause I speak of is known as “selfishness.”

II. Why War?

- A. Selfishness.
- 1. In the New Testament there is a term used which we translate in different ways but its basic meaning is to strive or contend out of a selfish ambition.
 - 2. This is so common in our lives that we don’t usually think much of it. In fact in America we tend to praise and promote this sort of thinking but we rename it as being forward thinking, aggressive personality, independent minded and such.
 - 3. Romans 2:8.

 - 4. Galatians 5:20.

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5. Philippians 1:17.

6. James 3:13-4:3.

7. Now give this thought when you hear of the Hamas attacking Israel or Russia invading Ukraine or some other situation that you call evil. Look at the Gulf War or the Civil War, what is going on in these tragedies? Strip away all the words and you will find selfishness and sin in general driving them. And it is important to understand it is not a single strand of selfishness but a twisted ball of various strands all wadded together.

8. So often the problem flows from words and ideas that are all drawing from the same polluted source. And this is often missed by us as we think about violence and war.

9. This is why the bible says that “the mouth of the wicked conceals violence” (Proverbs 10:6). Words are a tool to manipulate and misdirect and foment hatred and anger against others.

10. The words of Jeremiah 9:1-9 (turn).

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11. Jeremiah 6:1-16.

12. The first world war was said to be the war to end all wars. But this was just foolishness.

a. It only took about 16 years for Germany to begin the process of rebuilding the nation to go into another world war. And if you study it you see it is all out of selfishness on individual and national levels.

b. And those afraid of war are also often driven by selfishness. They don't want to risk losing something, including their lives. So they bargain and bribe and sell out just so that they can survive one more day with their pretty things.

B. Summary and Transition.

1. War exists because sin exists.

2. War exists because nations and people seek to satisfy sinful desires.

-But-

3. Does that make any and all war inherently evil?

4. Hear that question carefully (repeat it).

5. Let me rephrase it, "All violence is the result of sin, but does that make all violence sinful?" And it is here that things become a bit sticky for many and differing minds begin to debate.

C. Keeping all of this in mind, what are some possible initial conclusions might a Christian begin to develop regarding war?

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1. Some might say that all war, because it is the result of sin, ought to be avoided by Christians.
2. Others might say that though war is evil, it is a fruit of living in a fallen world and therefore it is to be resisted, even to the point of actually taking part in the war to resist it.
3. Others might say that only certain wars should be joined and others avoided, depending on the motive and goals of the war.
4. Regardless, the hard reality is that war does exist in its many forms and you must figure out what to think about it. If you don't, then you will simply be carried along by whatever emotion you feel at the moment and you become very easy to manipulate.

III. Conclusion.

- A. We are now ready to look at how various people developed a process to decide if war is the right thing to do. We will consider these next week.
- B. But it is critical to grasp that no matter what we decide on our own that often war is well beyond our control. We find it thrust upon us and we are forced to react.
- C. If you walk away today with the idea that all war is due to the presence of sin in and through our entire existence then you will be far better off than many in this world.
 1. The bible tells us clearly that sin is resolved not through our efforts or through laws and policies. Rather, it is always and only through Jesus Christ.
 2. The good news that the Christian brings is that there is hope of forgiveness of sin in the here and now through the death and resurrection of Jesus as our sacrifice and substitute.
 3. But the good news is also that in God's time, sin will be finally and fully resolved in the return of Jesus Christ.
 4. Hosea 2:18, *"In that day I will also make a covenant for them With the beasts of the field, The birds of the sky, And the creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land, And will make them lie down in safety."*
 - a. This speaks of the time when the promised Messiah comes and reigns on earth. It is commonly known as the millennial kingdom.

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- b. During Jesus' earthly reign war shall be abolished as He shall reign in perfection, supreme over all nations.
5. But the prophets also speak of the fact that God will use war upon Israel as a means of punishment due to its sin and rebellion. And so Amos, the prophet, speaks of when God will cause even the warriors in the land to flee or be destroyed. This has happened over and over since the day of Amos and continues even to this day.
6. Revelation 20:1-15.
 - a. In the end of all things, however, there shall be the final war. Where the nations, under the power of Satan, gather together to destroy Jesus Christ and Israel and it will go poorly for them all.
 - b. In this event you see war from both perspectives. You see the wicked intentions of those empowered by Satan to destroy Israel. And you see the righteousness of God devouring them in a moment through fire.
 - c. But more importantly you see the end of this age and with it the end of the presence of Sin, Satan and Death.
7. Debate war all you wish. But in the end, what matters is Jesus Christ. He is the One who will bring this all to an end. And those whose hope rest solely in Him shall be saved and give the gift of eternal life. Reject Him and nothing else shall matter.

Benediction

May the God who gave us the Word sanctify us in it so that we might find ourselves strengthened in the truth, humble of heart, able to encourage one another toward love and good deeds, especially as we see the day of our Lord's return drawing nearer. Amen.