



# DELICATE DISCUSSIONS, PART II

reflecting on our world today  
rooted in Jesus' compassion

life issues

self defense

Synod issues

political parties

...

capital punishment

cultural expressions of faith



# DELICATE DISCUSSIONS, PART II

reflecting on our world today  
rooted in Jesus' compassion

## Self-Defense





# Self-Defense

- starting points
  - Exodus 20:12: “Honor your father and your mother...”
    - All government and authority in society flows from the role and authority of parents over their children.
    - When *families* band together to achieve a common goal, they create societies and governments. Governments do not create families nor do they inherently have any authority not given to them by their citizens.



# Self-Defense

- starting points
  - Exodus 20:13: “You shall not murder.”
    - cf. ESV footnote
    - cf. Lutheran Study Bible note
    - רצח (“murder”) does not apply to
      - military
      - situations of self-defense
      - government (except capital punishment, which is explicitly *commanded* by Yahweh for Israelites)



# Self-Defense

- starting points
  - Exodus 20:13: “You shall not murder.”
    - *Small Catechism*: “What does this mean? Answer: We should fear and love God so that we may not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and befriend him in every bodily need [in every need and danger of life and body].
  - cf. 1 Timothy 5:8



# Self-Defense

- starting points
  - Exodus 22:2: “If a thief...”
    - not even a murderer breaking in, merely a thief
    - no bloodguilt for defending your home (i.e., family and property)



# Self-Defense

- starting points
  - Luke 9:1-6
    - cp. Luke 22:35-38
    - Luke 9 = trust exercise
    - Luke 22 = prophecy fulfillment





# Self-Defense

- application
  - May we as Christians defend and protect our family with lethal force in good conscience?
  - ...our neighbor...?
  - ...our country...?
  - *Must* we ...?
    - be careful where the pendulum lands
  - Isn't that the job of the government?
    - no, not even according to plenty of case law!





# Self-Defense

- application
  - May we use our hands (martial arts, etc.) in self-defense in good conscience?
  - May we use pepper spray ...?
  - May we use guns ...?
  - May we use RPGs, laser weapons, etc. ...?



# Self-Defense

- application
  - *Must* we use any of these?
  - *Must* we defend ourselves?
  - *Must* we defend our families, neighbor, etc.?



