

ORDER OF SERVICE

July 4, 2021

Why?

1 Tim 1:5-7

Worship in Fellowship

1 Tim 6:3-5

Worship in Music

Worship in Message

AJ Rinaldi

Ephesians 4:11-16

Worship in Costa Rica Mission Team Commissioning

Colossians 3:1-4

Worship in Giving

Christianity Promotes Violence

Selected Scriptures

Apology Accepted Series

How?

Colossians 1:19-20

Life Change: We demonstrate authentic Christianity; rejecting unbiblical actions.

Philippians 4:6-7

Romans 12:17-19

Hebrews 12:14

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."
- Matthew 5:9

James 3:17-18

1 Peter 3:10-12

What?

What about _____?

Luke 3:14

"People of every major religion have engaged in horrifically violent acts, often appealing to divine mandates for their violence."

Matthew 8

- Rebecca McLaughlin

Acts 10

Psalm 82:3-4

Romans 13:1-5



APOLOGY / ACCEPTED

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE

Does Christianity Promote Violence?

**“Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called sons of God.”**

-Jesus, Matthew 5:9

**“The *peacemakers* show others how to have inward
peace with God and how to be instruments of peace in
the world.”**

-Louis A. Barbieri, Jr. The Bible Knowledge Commentary

“People of every major religion have engaged in horrifically violent acts, often appealing to divine mandates for their violence...

To be sure, Christianity has had a huge impact for peace and justice, unparalleled by any other worldview. But the record of Christian failure is also long”

-Rebecca McLaughlin, Confronting Christianity

Historical

- *“Crusades”*
- *Persecution/ Inquisition*
- *Internal Conflict*



The Crusades

1096-1291

The Inquisitions 1184-1826



**Paintings of the Inquisition
by Francisco Goya**





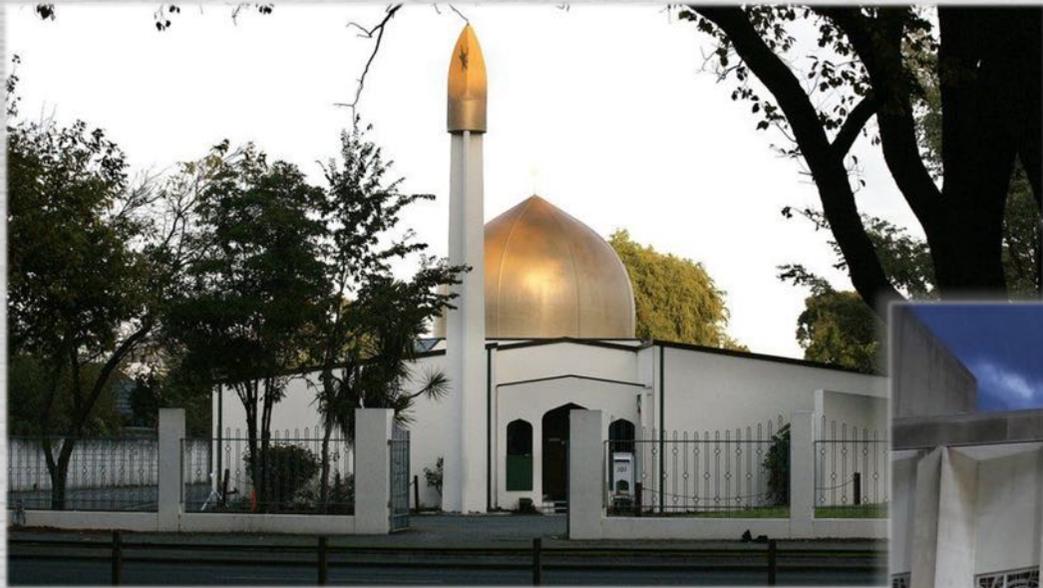
The Thirty-Years War
1618-1648

Contemporary

- ***Abortion Clinics***
- ***Multicultural Sites***
- ***Christian Nationalism***



**Bombing of Abortion Clinics,
and Attacks on Doctors who
Provide Abortions**



Attacks on Non-Christian Religious Institutions

“Christian Nationalism”



“Obviously, the best evidence would be the use of sacred symbols during the insurrection such as the cross, Christian flag, Jesus saves sign, etc. But also the language of the prayers offered by the insurrectionists both outside and within the Capitol indicates the views ...

Jesus not only wanted them to violently storm the Capitol in order to take it back from the socialists, globalists, etc., but also believed God empowered their efforts, giving them victory.

Today’s evangelical conservatives have given up on spiritual revival as a means of change...

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Their goal is no longer to persuade the public of their religious and moral convictions; rather, their goal has become to authoritatively enforce behavioral guidelines through elected and nonelected officials who will shape policies and interpret laws such that they cannot be so easily altered or dismissed through the vagaries of popular elections. It is not piety but policy that matters most.”

-Thomas Edsall, Opinion Piece in The New York Times:

“The Capitol Insurrection Was as Christian Nationalist as It Gets.”

So, Does Christianity Promote Violence?



“Christianity doesn’t, but Christians do.”

-Abby Powell



**“First, we cannot assume that everyone who identifies as a Christian authentically is one...
Second, the Bible teaches us to expect moral failure from Christians.”**

-Rebecca McLaughlin, *Confronting Christianity*

- **Bad, Incomplete, or No Biblical Knowledge**
- **Negative Influence/ “Group Think”**
- **Emotional Overwhelm**

- **Bad, Incomplete, or No Biblical Knowledge**

1 Tim 1:5-7

⁵ The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. ⁶ Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, ⁷ desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.

1 Tim 6:3-5

³ If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, ⁴ he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, ⁵ and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.

THE BOOK OF
ELI

SOME WILL KILL TO HAVE IT.
HE WILL KILL TO PROTECT IT.





“Usually when a Christian talks about being engaged in a battle, this type of metaphor stems from the scriptural references that describe the spiritual world as an epic struggle (see Eph. 6:10-17). Yet outsiders hear this language and become alarmed by the militaristic talk. And consider what happens when *Christians* are exposed to this warfare verbiage without the benefit of understanding Paul’s comments in Ephesians. Without context, these individuals may respond in unChristian ways toward outsiders. And even those with a biblical worldview can internalize this tough talk about spiritual warfare and lose sight of what it means to be full of grace toward skeptics and critics.

So it is incumbent on us to present things clearly, creatively, and without clichés. And particularly among Christians, our calls to action must provoke each other to self-examination, humility, and appropriate engagement. With fellow believers who lack a holistic biblical worldview, we have to be particularly cautious not to create attitudes in them or alarm them in ways that give them an excuse to be unChristian.”

-David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons,
*unchristian: what a new generation really
thinks about Christianity...and why it matters.*



- **Negative Influence/ “Group Think”**

“Groupthink is a phenomenon that occurs when a group of well-intentioned people makes irrational or non-optimal decisions spurred by the urge to conform or the belief that dissent is impossible. The problematic or premature consensus that is characteristic of groupthink may be fueled by a particular agenda—or it may be due to group members valuing harmony and coherence above critical thought.”

-Psychology Today



**Brother will kill brother
Spilling blood across the land
Killing for religion
Something I don't understand
Fools like me, who cross the sea
And come to foreign lands
Ask the sheep, for their beliefs
Do you kill on God's command?**

-Dave Mustaine, 'Holy Wars'

Ephesians 4:11-16

¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-16

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

- **Emotional Overwhelm**

***“Emotional Overwhelm* is a state of being beset by intense emotion that is difficult to manage. It can affect your ability to think and act rationally. It could also prevent you from performing daily tasks. Emotional overwhelm may be caused by stress, traumatic life experiences, relationship issues, and much more.”**

-goodtherapy.org

“There is a reason Christians are instructed in Colossians to set their hearts and minds on things above. Doing so has the capacity to transform the human heart, to make believers thankful, and to “put to death” their earthly nature, including anger, rage, malice, and slander.

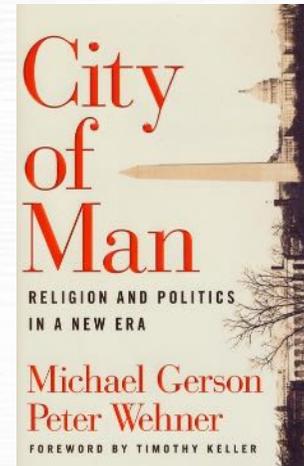
Like so many other Christians, we too have been much more likely to lash out at others...when we have begun to think as citizens of earth instead of as citizens of heaven...

Colossians 3:1-4

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Only when one begins to believe that God isn't sovereign does it become easy to develop an aggressive, anxious, brittle, desperate spirit."

-Michael Gerson and Peter Wehner, *City of Man: Religion and Politics in a New Era*



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**“Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called sons of God.”**

-Jesus, Matthew 5:9

How do we become Peacemakers?

How do we become Peacemakers?

- **Peace with God**
- **Peace Within**
- **Peace with Others**

Colossians 1:19-20

19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

**“...to cause God’s enemies to become, by faith,
His friends and His children.”**

-Norm Geisler, The Bible Knowledge Commentary

Philippians 4:6-7

⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

“...the peace *of* (or from) God relates to the inner tranquility of a believer’s close walk with God.

-Robert P. Lightner, The Bible Knowledge Commentary

Romans 12:17-19

17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

Hebrews 12:14

¹⁴ Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

James 3:17-18

**...the wisdom from above is first pure,
then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy
and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ And a
harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those
who make peace.**

1 Peter 3:10-12

**10 For “Whoever desires to love life and see good days,
let him keep his tongue from evil
and his lips from speaking deceit;**

**11 let him turn away from evil and do good;
let him seek peace and pursue it.**

**12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their prayer.**

But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

(Peter is quoting from Psalm 34)

**“Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called sons of God.”**

-Jesus, Matthew 5:9

But what about...

WAR

The word "WAR" is presented in a highly stylized, three-dimensional font. Each letter is filled with a bright, intense orange and yellow fire, with flames appearing to erupt from the bottom and sides. The letters have a rough, metallic texture, and several small, glowing red and orange particles are scattered around them, suggesting shattering or burning debris. The background is a dark, almost black, surface with a network of fine, light-colored cracks, giving it a weathered and ominous appearance. The overall composition is centered and conveys a sense of intense conflict and destruction.



“If Christians were meant to be pacifists one would expect to find a command or a directive in Scripture to that effect. None, however, can be found. When soldiers approached John the Baptist and asked him, “What should we do [to be pleasing to God]?”, John did not condemn war or participation in war, but instead warned them against extortion and greed...”

(Luke 3:14)

“The problem with the pacifist view is that it misidentifies the morality of the individual as justification for the morality or behaviour of the state. ...The teachings of Jesus regarding “loving one’s enemies” and “turning the other cheek” (Matthew 5, Luke 6) were meant to discourage revenge.”

-Dr. Roland Chia, Ethos institute for Public Christianity

Matthew 8

The Centurion about which Jesus said:

“Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith.”



Acts 10

The Centurion named Cornelius—"a devout man who feared God with all his household..."



“What men write about war, saying that it is a great plague, is all true. But they should also consider how great the plague is that war prevents.”

-Martin Luther



“To call war anything less than evil would be self-deception. The Christian conscience has throughout history recognized the tragic character of war. The issue that tears the Christian conscience is not whether war is good, but whether it is in all cases avoidable.”

-Arthur Holmes, Christian Philosopher

Augustine's *Just War* Theory

- 1. Must be waged for self-defence, rather than conquest, plunder, or political aggression;**
- 2. Must be initiated by the proper authority, i.e., a lawful government, rather than an angry mob;**
- 3. Must be fought with the right intention: peace. It should not be fought in order to gain land, wealth, power, etc.;**
- 4. Must have a reasonable chance of success;**
- 5. Must use means proportionate to the goal. If, for example, the goal is to liberate an oppressed people, it makes no sense to destroy cities in the process.**

Law Enforcement



Psalm 82:3-4

- ³ Give justice to the weak and the fatherless;
maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.**
- ⁴ Rescue the weak and the needy;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”**

Romans 13:1-5

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴ for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.

Living in the Tension

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- **Strive to be a Peacemaker:**
 - **Practice love and make peace with everyone**

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- **Keep an Eternal Perspective:**
 - **Focus on the things above and not earthly concerns**

Living in the Tension

- **Strive to be a Peacemaker:**
 - **Practice love and make peace with everyone**
- **Keep an Eternal Perspective:**
 - **Focus on the things above and not earthly concerns**
- **Share the Gospel of Grace:**
 - **True Peace only comes from being reconciled to God through Faith in Christ Alone!**

Philippians 4:6-7

⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



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