

The 5th Commandment and Civil Authorities

The Purpose and Means of Civil Government

Q: What is the **purpose** of civil government?

A1: The civil government is God's _____ of justice (Rom 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17)

Q: How does civil government minister God's justice?

A1: The civil government wisely _____ God's standard of justice (Rom 13:1-7)

A2: The civil government _____ transgressions with the _____

A3: It justly bears the sword to _____ the life and property of its citizens

- God is a _____ (2 Kings 19:20-37; Psalm 43:1-2; 72:1-4)
 - The example of _____ (Deut 28:7, 25-26; Judg 2:11-15; Esther 8:11; 9:16)

 - In the New Testament, we expect soldiers to continue in their _____ (Luke 3:14; Matt 8 / Mark 15 / Luke 7; Acts 10)

 - The gospel promised a _____ - _____ (Isa 19:19-22)

 - The civil states should defend the _____
 - The character of God (Psalm 72; 41:1-3; Amos 4:1-4)

 - God invited his people to join him in defending the weak (Psalm 82:1-4; Lev 19:15-16; Prov 24:10-12; Isa 1:16-17; 58:5-10)

 - The New Testament teaches an individual ethic of helping the weak and poor (Luke 10:25-37; Acts 4:34-37; 2 Cor 8-9; Gal 2:10)
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How then does the civil state defend? What are the merits and weaknesses of different means of defense?

- The civil states should protect _____ and _____

How might the civil state protect life? To what degree should the state engage in protecting life in the case of...

- Unborn children (i.e. abortion)
- Potential murder
- Suicide
- Health and safety (e.g. alcohol, tobacco, drugs, processed food)
- Care for the sick and injured
- Medical emergency / terminal illness
- End of life / euthanasia
- From animals
- From environmental dangers?

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- What about human rights or liberties?
 - Scripture tells the story of _____ from slavery & oppression
 - Freedom of _____ is valued
 - Basic human liberties grant citizens the freedom to steward their lives for the best public good

What rights should the civil government defend? What rights are recognized in the US?

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- Freedom of _____, _____, _____, _____, _____ the government (_____ Amendment)
 - Freedom to _____ (_____ Amendment)
 - Freedom from unreasonable _____ and _____

What are the challenges in balancing incremental increases in civil regulation versus protecting human liberty?

Just War Theory

- *Jus Ad Bellum* : Just war criteria

1. Just _____ (Rev 19:11)
2. Competent _____ (Rom 13:1)
3. Comparative _____ (Rom 13:3)
4. Right _____ (Prov 21:2)
5. Last _____ (Proverbs 16:32; Deut 20:12; 1 Ki 5:12)
6. Probability of _____ (Lk 14:31; Proverbs 20:18; 24:6)
7. Right _____ (Ps 68:30; Proverbs 3:31-32)

- *Jus in Bello* : Just means of war

1. Proportionality in the use of _____ (Deut 20:10-12)
2. _____ between combatants and noncombatants (Deut 20:13-14, 19-20)
3. Avoidance of _____ means (Ps 34:14; Joshua 6:18; 7:1ff)
4. Good _____ (Mt 5:43-44; Rom 12:18)

What do you make of these criteria? Agree, disagree? How so?

How does one reach consensus? *Who* reaches consensus?

What if a war has a mix of just and unjust aspects to it?

Pacifism & Christian Military Involvement

- Pacifism : it is morally wrong to use military force against others
- Reasons:
 1. A separation of the church from the _____ (John 18:36; 2 Cor 10:3-4ff; Php 3:18-21; Rom 12:1-2)
 2. Turn the other _____ (Mt 5:3-12; 39 (38-48); also Luke 6:27-36; Rom 12:19-21; 1 Pet 2:18-24)
 3. _____ your neighbor as yourself (Mt 22:39)
 4. Military engagement is not _____ God
 5. Violence _____ further violence
 6. Genuine Christian pacifism would have _____ previous wars

While we ought to pursue peace (virtue of pacifism),

in a fallen world, Christians can ethically pursue the just defense of human life

Pacifism or just war theory or realist — which perspective are you persuaded of? Why so? you?

What fears does war evoke for

How can you contribute peacefully in disagreements with those who differ from you in perspective?

National Defense Policy

- If a nation is responsible to defend itself against foreigners...therefore...
 - A nation should have a military force
 - That military force requires structure and levels of hierarchical authority
 - A nation should have a military force powerful enough to defend itself
 - A nation must resources their military
 - A nation should wield military weaponry
 - A nation should collect military intelligence
 - A nation might form alliances or defense agreements with other nations
 - A nation will engage in various degrees of foreign intervention

How should we think about military budgets and spending?

To what extend should the US be involved in “policing” the nations of the world?

What is the line between protecting world peace and defending one’s homeland? When and why do we intervene?

Means of Warfare

- Missile Defense Systems & Nuclear Weapons
 - What are the “costs” of the use of nuclear weapons?

 - Is worldwide nuclear disarmament possible?

 - How can the risk of nuclear weapons be reduced?

What are arguments against the use of nuclear weapons?

What might Christians think about other weaponry (biological, geological, weather, nanotech, cyber, economic)?

Think biblically, what is the root problem with weapons?

- What military strategies and tactics can you observe in the Scriptures?

- Espionage, Spying & the CIA

Can a Christian serve as a spy?

How might the CIA operate with oversight?

How should Christians relate to the CIA?

What might Hollywood be doing with Jason Bourne movies?

- Treatment of Prisoners

What are possible exceptions to humane treatment?

What actions should be off limits?

Men & Women in Combat

ESV Study Bible “Most nations throughout history, and most Christians in every age, have held that fighting in combat is a responsibility that should fall only to men, and that it is contrary to the very idea of womanhood, and shameful for a nation, to have women risk their lives as combatants in a war. The assumption that only men and not women will fight in battle is also a frequent pattern in the historical narratives and is affirmed by leaders and prophets in the OT (see Num. 1:2-3; Deut. 3:18-19; 20:7-8; 24:5; Josh. 1:14; 23:10; Judge. 4:8-10; 9:54; 1 Sam 4:9; Neh. 4:13-14; Jer. 50:37; Nah. 3:13)”

What would Christians do in light of the civil state requiring women to be drafted? Should military service be mandated?
