

Practical Theology - Grace Bible Church
Just War vs. Pacifism

A) Just War Theory (Read the Paper: *The Christian Perspective on War: The Activist Position*)

1. What are the three God-ordained purposes of human government in the Old Testament?
2. What does Romans 13 add to our understanding of God's purposes of government?
3. Explain Matthew 5:39 in its context? Does this passage preclude self-defense, either personal or national?
4. What criteria does Just War Theory before a nation should go to war? For conduct in war?
5. What was the rationale for the United States to use nuclear weapons on Hiroshima & Nagasaki?
6. What was the rationale for the M.A.D. (Mutually Assured Destruction) of the Cold War?
7. What are the dangers of having nuclear weapons? Of not having nuclear weapons?

B) Read the paper: *Will the Real Peacemakers Please Lay Down their Lives?*

1. What is pacifism?
2. Can the principles of personal pacifism be projected into a national stance of pacifism? Why or why not?
3. Can specific instances of either war or peace in the Old Testament be properly used to justify a stance of either war or peace in a present circumstance? Why or why not? What can be learned from those specific examples?
4. Do the various commands to love (limitless love - section VI, A in the paper)- preclude self-defense? Why or why not?
5. What is the pacifist explanation for the many wars recorded in the Old Testament - many of which were at God's direction?
6. Explain Matthew 10:34 in its context
7. Explain Matthew 26:52 in its context
8. Explain Luke 22:36 in its context
9. Why did Jesus refrain from armed self-defense and revenge during His years of earthly ministry? How did Jesus show He had full power to control the events of His arrest and crucifixion?

10. How will Jesus respond to His enemies in the future?
11. Why did the apostles refrain from armed self-defense and revenge during their years of ministry? What are some examples of apostles being protected or taking action to protect themselves?
12. Does a personal position of pacifism require a pacifist position in the protection of others? Explain
13. What are some of the logical fallacies presented in the paper, *Will the Real Peacemakers Please Lay Down their Lives?*
14. What was the reason the paper, *Will the Real Peacemakers Please Lay Down their Lives?* Begins and ends with personal stories from war? Do either of those stories validate the pacifist position either personally or nationally? Explain.
15. In a time of war, what obligations does a pacifist citizen have toward his nation? Explain.

Case Studies

- 1) You are a Christian who has been personally assaulted while witnessing at an outreach event. What are your options in responding? What factors will help you determine what you should do?
- 2) You are a citizen of a nation that had entered into war with another nation. What difference would the following factors help you determine your response to that war?
 - A) There is a formal declaration of war. There is not a formal declaration of war.
 - B) Your nation is the aggressor nation. Your nation is responding to defensively
 - C) You have been drafted into military service
- 3) You are a parent and your child is being physically threatened at a public event. What are your options in responding?
- 4) You stop by to see your aging parents and discover when you go inside that an intruder is physically assaulting them. What are your options in responding?
- 5) You are serving as a legislator in the governing body of your nation and a bill comes up concerning appropriations for the nation's nuclear weapons arsenal. What factors would help you determine whether such a bill should be supported or opposed?
- 6) You are serving as President of your nation. The neighboring nation has just made a military raid into your nation leaving several citizens dead. What factors will help you determine your response?