

## Should a Christian possess weapons?

There are some theological schools of thought that attempt to paint the Holy Scriptures as a course on pacifism where Christians are told to submit to every kind of aggression against them regardless of the disastrous outcome. But as with other man-devised opinions of the Bible, such a viewpoint is never found to be based on any commandment of God nor by the lessons of the prophets or apostles. Christians are never to be unrighteous aggressors in a conflict, but surely in defense of one's self, family, or nation, a Christian is to be armed with weapons suited to protect against evildoers. In fact, Jesus Christ commanded His followers to be armed, and to even sell the shirt off their back if need be, in order to purchase a weapon:

*“ Then said He (Jesus) unto them, But now he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one – and they said unto Him, Master, behold, here are two swords. And He said unto them, It is enough.” (Luke 22:36)*

Certainly Jesus Himself is not an unconditional pacifist. He went to the cross without a struggle because that was His purpose for coming at that time. He was sent to die for our sins and to satisfy a divine justice against us for the wrongs we have all committed against God and man in our sinful flesh. But at His second coming Jesus has the title of “The Lion of Judah” where He will rebuke the evil governments of men and *“In righteousness He doth judge and make war – and rule the nations with a rod of iron.” (Revelation 19:11, 15)* Let's also recall that the first thing Jesus did on beginning His public ministry was to make a whip and physically drive the moneychangers out of the temple overthrowing their tables. (John 2:15) This is not the work of a meek pacifist.

When Jesus instructed His disciples to “turn the other cheek” it was specifically a point of advice to them as they were teaching a doctrine opposed to an entrenched religion which would cause much controversy. Jesus' disciples could not be engaged in “fist fights” at every turn of disagreement among the population or the Gospel would suffer from never being spread. That phrase was a matter of wisdom and discretion, not a matter of pacifism at all cost.

We also know that God Almighty considered King David to be *“A man after mine own heart” (Acts 13:22)* It was David who slew the giant Goliath with his sling, and who praised God saying, *“Blessed be Yahweh my strength, which teacheth my hands to war and my fingers to fight.” (Psalm 144:1)*

There can be no doubt that if we are to be complete and faithful Christians we are required to possess and know how to use the current weapon of our times. In the modern age it is the firearm, or simply called “a gun”. Jesus says that if we don't have one, we need to sell our garment and buy one. That is faithful obedience to our Master, Savior, and King – Jesus Christ.