The Christian and Self Defense

Welcome and Thanks.

1. Thank Pat for putting this together
2. Thank all in attendance.

I’ll be reading from the New King James Version

I. Introduction

1. The issue before us tonite is one with grave consequences.

a. Let me admit we all on some level believe in defensive actions like locking our doors or training our children to never leave with strangers.

b. However, beyond these measures that brethren agree on…What we are trying to study together and determine is whether a Christian can do bodily harm to and even use deadly force if need be to another in defending self or someone else.

2. I was recently reminded that I need to watch and pray when it comes to this area.

a. About 4 Months ago, as a part of our Professional Development agenda, we had a nationally renowned speaker come and conduct ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING. To be brief, there were 3 key Actions he emphasized and encouraged us to commit to memory and to do these IN THIS PARTICULAR ORDER : 1. Flee 2. Hide 3. Fight in the event of an active shooter situation. It dawned on me as he was speaking that I’m only authorized by God to practice two of them and that would be

1. **Flee and 2. Hide**

Before I set out to show book, chapter and verse for why I believe only two are Authorized by God and in essence why I believe it to be wrong to do bodily harm and use deadly force in defense of ourselves and others…even in an Active Shooter situation.

**I would like to mention some critical points that are not the issue:**

II. **What's not the issue**

1. **Who Loves their families the most (insert Keiths and Greg Hopkins comments)**
2. **What the Kingdoms of earth authorizes or thinks is right**
3. Romans 13:4 “For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.”
4. God uses the governments of the world (those under the sway or influence of the evil one) as His avengers “to execute wrath on him who practices evil.” Rom 13:4
5. We must keep in mind that although God uses these governments as His ministers and as an avenger, he also allows them free will and thus these governments most times act contrary to God’s will and condones Abortions/ the killings of millions of innocent unborn and born babies, so called mercy killings, Lynchings of innocent citizens, they forbid religious freedoms, practice genocide, steal, take what doesn’t belong to them by force, ect.
6. It’s Righteousness that exalts a nation and yet, these governments have shown little regard for innocent blood and the sanctity of life.
7. The Laws of the land are not our first and foremost authority on this subject or any subject
8. **What the Law of Moses instructed the Israelites to do in matters involving self defense.**
9. It’s hard to believe that as much time as we spend telling the Seventh day Adventist and other denominationalist that we are not under the old covenant. We remind them that you can’t pick and choose.
10. Gal. 5:3 That if you try and keep one commandment that you are a debtor to keep the whole law.
11. Gal 5:4 Furthermore, if the Christian attempts to be justified by law, you have fallen from grace.
12. I’ve heard brethren try to justify carrying a weapon and physically harming others by pointing to Jesus actions in driving the money changers out of the temple
13. They bring up how the Israelites who returned from the captivity had their swords by their side as they rebuilt the temple walls
14. You know if someone murdered one of my relatives a family member would have become the avenger of blood and would kill the murderer. Now I am told to honor, pray for and forgive that person and let God’s avenger (civil government) take care of him.
15. Maybe the most widely used verse to justify deadly force in self defense for the Christian is the Old Testament passage found in Lev. 22:2-3.
16. **2 If the thief is found breaking in, and he is struck so that he dies, there shall be no guilt for his bloodshed. 3 If the sun has risen on him, there shall be guilt for his bloodshed. He should make full restitution; if he has nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft.**
17. We must remember that so many of the old testament laws and instructions from God that governed The physical nation of Israel involved :
18. brutality, commands to kill man woman and child and anything that breathed many times, eye for an eye, burn for burn, stoning the adulterer, Snatching the hair of those in mixed marriages, using carnal weapons on the enemies of God….All of which are OUTLAWED and FORBIDDEN in **the Kingdom that is not of this world** and **the Kingdom that uses spiritual weapons to defeat Her enemies.**
19. Brethren will say in one breathe that “we are not under the old testament” and in the same breathe try and bind principles, incorporate Israels/her prophets carnal tactics into the New Testament Christian’s behavior.
20. **We must remove our emotions from the equation as we try and determine matters of right and wrong**
21. Jeremiah 10:23 “It’s not in man to direct his own steps”
22. Prov 14:12 “There is a way that seems right to a man but the end thereof are the ways of death”

Some bible subjects are surrounded by emotions and hypotheticals. This subject is near the top in this regard in my judgement.

I would ask that each of us set aside all emotional arguments and hypotheticals during this time we have tonite and simply appeal to the Word of God for all authority.

2 Tim 3:16-17 – “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Col. 3:17 – “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

1. This is my wife and kids were talking about
2. We have a right to peaceful worship and protection of our fellow Christians
3. **We are not discussing Gun ownership.**
4. Guns are good for hunting and killing of animals
5. Protection against certain dangerous and wild animals
6. As it relates to guns and other weapons, the issue becomes can we use them to cause harm to humans, even kill them.
7. **There’s always been difficult and perilous times**
8. Brethren act like school shootings and church shootings are happening everyday and on every street corner. This is not to minimize the atrocity of children murderers and depraved adults killing innocent people in religious places of worship or schools.
9. They tell we live in times so bad that would call for arming and training the spiritual sisters of Mary and Martha to kill a criminal if necessary, the sisters of Lydia to keep her weapon handy in case her business is robbed and she is in danger.
10. This is our wives and kids were talking about
11. **Beware of the evil influence of secular literature and history books.**
12. There is a book entitled “A Time to Kill: The Myth of Christian Pacifism” by Greg Hopkins.

A huge misunderstanding or statement that is often made is that the New Testament doesn’t discuss the subject of self defense on the robber and other violent criminals. I strongly disagree and will seek to prove by the scriptures that is just not the case. Not only that but the bible is filled with multiple plain self-defense passages that and strategies that cover all the troubles a Christian will face in this life. We’ve been thouroughly furnished unto every good work and given all things that pertain to this life and godliness.

By way of proof that it is sinful for the Christian to physically harm or use deadly force on another individual in the name of defending themselves or others,

Lets do Two Things:

1. Lets first begin with **Jesus** as our perfect example
2. and then lets look at some of HIS words and actions while here on earth as it regards to self defense.

**I’d like to suggest that Jesus is our perfect example on Self Defense**

1. Heb. 4:15 “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are,* *yet* without sin.”
2. I’m confident Jesus knows and understands the temptations of being attacked maybe by robbers or violent men, ect. And the temptations that come our way when we or someone we know is threatened/attacked. We can rest assured of that.
3. 1 Pet. 2:21-24 “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth”;who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but **committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; 24**who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.”

Someone might say, well that’s talking about not retaliating. Its much more than that.

1. Jesus didn’t resist
2. Jesus didn’t retaliate
3. Jesus “committed Himself to Him who judges righteously
4. Jesus suffered wrongfully without sinning.

**The principle I’m emphasizing is found in 1 Pet 2:19 because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully.**

**Now, Lets turn to Jesus as he taught on Self Defense**

**Jesus taught on Self Defense when he taught:**

**Lets keep a running list of options, strategies, reactions to violence, persecution, suffering. These are the things we actually have authority for.**

1. John 18: 36 My kingdom is not of this world
2. Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.”
3. I’ve read many articles on this verse and most all have emphasized that Jesus was teaching that His Kingdom wasn’t advanced with military might or the cause of Christ wasn’t defended with military might
4. This may be so but that’s not what Jesus said here.
5. Since Jesus Kingdom is not of this world His Servants did not fight to defend Him from the Jews
6. Lk. 22:49 When those around Him saw what was going to happen, they said to Him, “Lord, shall we strike with the sword?”
7. Of course Peter doesn’t wait for the answer and he has cut a guys ear off before Jesus could answer.
8. Mt. 5:38-42 taught not to resist an evil person
9. Mt. 5:38-42 "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' 39 But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. 40 If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. 41 And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. 42 Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.
10. You would think this verse says, “but I tell you no eye for an eye to an evil person”

Example…If he slaps you, don’t slap him back.

1. Actually the verse says “NOT TO RESIST AN EVIL PERSON”
2. Who is included in this “evil person”
3. Some tell us this does not include the violent criminal or Robber.
4. To help find the answer SEE Exodus 21:23-25 "If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman's husband imposes on him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. 23 But if any harm follows, then you shall give life for life, 24 eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, 25 burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.”
5. Lev. 24:19-21 “If a man causes disfigurement of his neighbor, as he has done, so shall it be done to him-- 20 fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; as he has caused disfigurement of a man, so shall it be done to him. 21 And whoever kills an animal shall restore it; but whoever kills a man shall be put to death.”
6. Both of these passages would include a violent criminal, including the robber.
7. So the evil person is anyone that causes us physical harm.
8. Some say this passage doesn’t have any bearing on the subject of self defense. They say this passage is forbidding retaliating over a personal insult. They argue something like this. Jesus said if a someone slaps you on your “right cheek”…a right handed person would have to backhand slap someone to hit them on the right cheek and this was considered a great insult (although non-life threatening they say)
9. Lets examine this
10. **Luke 6:27-36 “To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also” this passage should put that theory to rest**.
11. Mt. 5:43-48 “Love your enemies”
12. "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? 48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.
13. Notice that these instructions include both the religious and secular aspects of our lives.
14. Enemy- Definition
15. STRONG’S #2190 Mr. Strong says usually as a noun, an adversary(especially Satan)-enemy, foe.
16. Thayers Greek English Lexicon “person to whom one is hostile, Mt 5:43
17. Neighbor and enemy both are to be loved.
18. Question…Is there a “scum of the earth” “pure evil” “violent criminal” third category that we cannot love, or that we can do harm to?
19. Jesus New teaching expanded the command to include both neighbor and enemy. Both are to be loved.
20. John 15:12-13 Lay down our lives for our friends
21. “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.”
22. Aquilla and Prescilla “risked their own necks to do me service”
23. Lk 23:34 Pray for them while being harmed
24. “Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.”
25. Acts 7:59-60 “And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on *God* and saying, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” **60**Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not charge them with this sin.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.”
26. We need this type love of souls, strength of character, composure, presence of mind
27. Mt. 10:16 Wise as serpents and Harmless as doves
28. "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.
29. Sheep with guns
30. This is the idea of being smart out there
31. Harmless as doves- Pure in thought, without defilement, impurities
32. LIVE TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY. I think this is what we see with Jesus escaping and Paul returning to Lystra and Iconium after being left for dead
33. Mt. 10:17 Beware of men
34. But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues.
35. (Beware-Strongs #4337) Thayers Greek English lexicon- To attend to ones self, for example to give heed to ones self, to guard ones self, for example TO BEWARE.
36. John 17:14-15 “**14**I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. **15**I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.”
37. Mt. 10:23 Flee to another
38. When they persecute you in this city, (SIT THERE AND TAKE), **FLEE** to another
39. MTH 10:26 Therefore do not fear them
40. So this is the attitude we must arm ourselves with
41. It takes courage
42. MTH 10:28 Fear not them which can kill the body
43. “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”
44. This would include the thief, the robber, cold blooded killer, the rapist.
45. MT. 26:41 Watch and Pray
46. MT. 26:41 “Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."
47. I believe contextually these commandments to Peter, James and John were to prepare them psychologically, emotionally, physically in anticipation of and during the arrest of Jesus and subsequent questioning of Peter.
48. Lk:22:38 “So they said, “Lord, look, here *are* two swords.” And He said to them, “It is enough.”
49. In what sense is two swords enough
50. Enough talk about swords
51. “IT” is enough
52. If this is a weapon for self defense, wouldn’t this command be for every man, women and child to arm themselves even at the expense of garments to wear. Or at a minimum commanding all preachers to buy a weapon”
53. Jn 18:23 “**23**Jesus answered him, “If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, **why do you strike Me?”**

**Jesus Himself put the Christian in harms way:**

1. **Harm associated with “For righteousness sake”:**
2. **I send you** out as Sheep in the “midst” of wolves
3. Acts 9:15-16 “**15**But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. **16**For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.”
4. 1 Pet 2:21 **21**For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:
5. All that would live Godly shall suffer persecution
6. If anyone suffer as a Christian
7. “perils of robbers”
8. Phil. 2:30 Epaphroditus “**30**because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me.”
9. **Harm associated with being a citizen (non-religious)**
10. 1 Pet 3:6 Christian Wives are told not to be afraid
11. Whose wives ye are…without fear of harm
12. Servants be subject to your master “…gentle but the harsh”
13. “beaten for your faults…conscience toward God you take it patiently”
14. “perils of robbers”

Some common misunderstandings of the no-harm position:

1. You guys believe in just sitting back and doing nothing
2. You hold a faith without works view and they reference Mt. 6:33 to prove we must have faith but we must also act or do something.
3. If you understood love correctly, you would do whatever it takes to protect defend yourself and those you love

What about this idea of Violent self-preservation?

Lets examine how God views our bodies

1. We are not our own
2. 1 Cor 6:19-20 “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? **20**For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”
3. **Paul**
4. 2 Cor 11:23-27 **23**Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I *am* more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. **24**From the Jews five times I received forty *stripes* minus one. **25**Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; **26***in* journeys often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils of *my own* countrymen, *in* perils of the Gentiles, *in* perils in the city, *in*perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren; **27**in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—
5. **Jesus**
6. Mt. 26:67 “**67**Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck *Him* with the palms of their hands,”
7. Mt. 27:26 “…and when they had scourged Jesus”
8. Mt. 27:30 “then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head
9. **Servants**
10. 1 Pet. 2:20 **20**For what credit *is it* if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this *is* commendable before God.

**The apostle Paul and self-defense/suffering:**

Remember Phil 4:9 - “The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.”

1. 2 Tim. 4:14-15 Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm
2. We can warn others
3. Acts 23:2-3 “**2**And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth. **3**Then Paul said to him, “God will strike you, *you* whitewashed wall! For you sit to judge me according to the law, and do you command me to be struck contrary to the law?” (Rebuke)
4. Rom 15:30-31 ” **30**Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me, **31**that I may be delivered from those in Judea who do not believe, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints,”
5. Strive in prayer
6. 2 Cor 11:22-28 Perils of Robbers, countrymen, Gentiles, etc
7. Were these persecuting robbers, enemy robbers or violent robbers
8. See Pauls Attitude in 2 Cor 12:7-10
9. 2 Cor 12:7-10 Paul adjusted his attitude toward these perils and distresses, once he realized God’s grace was sufficient and that The Lords strength is made perfect in weakness
10. **Key point- As hard as it may sound we might need whatever peril and distresses we face to learn to rely on God’s grace.**

**James on self-defense/Suffering**

James 1:2-4 “**2** My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, **3** knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. **4** But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”

James 5:6-12

1. Shows the Rich who murder the just and James told them to therefore be patient until the coming of the Lord
2. Take the prophets as an example of suffering and patience
3. Jobs perseverance
4. Key point- “seen the end intended by the Lord- that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful
5. Job didn’t retaliate or seek vengeance over the murder of his servants and loss of property

James 5:13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray.

1. This would include during being harassed, physically harmed or bullied, a family member being harmed in some way, etc.
2. Remember Jesus and Stephen’s prayers

**Peter on self-defense/Suffering**

1. Directions for Wives
2. 1 Pet. 3:6 “as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.”

1 Pet 2:17-25

1. **Honor all people**. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king. 18 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. **19 For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. 20 For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God.** 21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: 22 "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; 24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed. 25 For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

a. 1 Pet 2:18 Suffering at work, or some type of servitude position

b. 1 Pet 2:18 “Not only to the good but the harsh”

c. v. 20 “Beaten for your faults”

d. v. 21 Jesus is our sinless example

2. Deliverance from God 2 Pet. 2:7-9

a. “7 and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked 8 (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)-- 9 then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,”

**Some principles that must govern our self defense :**

1. Mt 26:52 Make no provision for the flesh
2. ….I think its fair to say that Peter put himself in a bad situation by having that weapon at the Illegal arrest of his Lord and friend
3. Also by not watching and praying
4. Mt. 5:39 “not to resist an evil person” Non-violent resistance
5. Mt. 26:52 “all who take the sword will perish by the sword”
6. Rom. 13:10 “Love **does no harm** to a neighbor”
7. Mt. 5:44 “Love your enemies”
8. Mt. 10:16 “I send you out as **sheep** in the midst of wolves”
9. Mt. 10:16 “**Wise** as serpents”
10. Mt. 10:17 “**Harmless** as Doves”
11. Mt. 10:26 “Do not Fear them”
12. Mt. 10:28 “do not fear those who can kill the body but cannot kill the soul”
13. Bro. Sutton said “all they can do is us”
14. 1 Pet 2:19-20 “Take it patiently when beaten for doing good, for this is commendable before God.”
15. Apostles prayed for boldness after they were beaten.
16. Don’t let the Lords enemies defeat us nor stop our good works ….Paul returned to Lystra, Iconium after being beaten and stoned
17. Fear not them that can kill the body
18. The worse they can do is kill us.
19. Use the tragedy to grow and mature

13. 1 Pet 3:1 Wives are to be submissive to their own husbands

a. Wives “Likewise”. I take this to mean just like Christ (who committed no sin…v.22) suffered wrongfully and took it patiently.

14. Acts 20:24 “but not of these thing move; nor do I count my life dear to me” Make sure we are prepared to die

15. Ultimately, we could lay down our lives for our wives, kids, etc.

**Some examples of self-defense**

1. Luke 22:49 “When those around him saw what was going to happen, they said Lord shall we strike with the Sword?”
2. Luke 22:50-51 And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus answered and said, "Permit even this." And He touched his ear and healed him.
3. The way some brethren talk many times you would think that this is all that was said to Peter.
4. Mt 26:51-53 And suddenly, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. 52 But Jesus said to him, **"Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.** 53 Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?
5. Jn. 18:10-11 Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. 11 So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?"
6. Acts 7:60 Stephen- Cling to God and Pray for them while they are attacking us
7. “Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.”
8. Acts 12:17-19 Peter Hiding it seems
9. Acts 12:5 The church constantly praying for Peter while in prison
10. Acts 12:1-11 God Miraculously delivering Peter from prison and death.
11. Acts 9:22-25 Disciples taking Paul by night and letting him down through the wall in a basket
12. Acts 23:10 Police protection “Now when there arose a great dissension, the commander, fearing lest Paul might be pulled to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him by force from among them, and bring him into the barracks.”
13. Acts 23:16 Paul called the cops via his nephew, so to speak, when he heard of those who planned to ambush and murder him
14. Acts 25:10-12 Paul appeals to Caesar

Some common arguments for lethal force Answered:

**Argument #1** I Tim. 5:8 teaches fathers should "provide" for their families and this would include : Their safety, protection, welfare, etc. and thus would authorize and even command a dad to use lethal force if necessary to defend and protect the child or family.

**Answer**:

1. The elephant in the room is that this would violate Mt 5 teachings to love our neighbor, love our enemies.
2. It would violate Romans 13:10  **“**Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law”
3. This sounds a lot like someone taking Eph 4:28 command to work and arguing it would authorize a women selling her body to get money to help the needy
4. Robin Hood…Steal from the rich to give to the poor

**Argument #2 The Two Swords**

1. Luke 22:38 35 And He said to them, "When I sent you without money bag, knapsack, and sandals, did you lack anything?" So they said, "Nothing." 36 Then He said to them, "But now, he who has a money bag, let him take it, and likewise a knapsack***; and he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one.*** 37 For I say to you that this which is written must still be accomplished in Me: 'And He was numbered with the transgressors.' For the things concerning Me have an end." 38 So they said, "Lord, look, here are two swords." And He said to them, "It is enough."

**Answer**

1. Brethren tell us that the swords were for robbers,
2. First of all, I want to know how they know that the swords went on the trip
3. When you hear that a Christian owns a gun, does that automatically mean its for self defense from humans and the use of deadly force
4. Actually, Mt 10:5-10 Gives the context of the command to sell your clothes and buy a sword

“These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. 6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' 8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. 9 Provide neither gold nor silver nor copper in your money belts, 10 nor bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor staffs; for a worker is worthy of his food.”

1. “FOR A WORKER IS WORTHY OF HIS FOOD”
2. The disciples would have to provide their own food once Jesus left.
3. Was Jesus commanding every man, woman and child to sell their clothes and buy a sword, and thus commanding every Christian to sell their clothes and buy a gun
4. Did Jesus contradict himself by commanding everyone to SELL HIS CLOTHES AND BUY A SWORD and then saying TWO “IS ENOUGH”

**Argument #3 Nature teaches**

1. We shouldn’t deprive mothers of their natural instinct to defend their children even to using lethal force if necessary
2. Nature teaches the animals to care for their young
3. Examples, the mother bear or the mother hen

**Answer-**

1. Nature is all over the place on this topic
2. It is correct, that nature shows some animals are very protective of their young
3. Nature also shows/teaches some animals kill, abandon, eat their young.
4. Wouldn’t nature then authorize abortions, cannibalism for some mothers
5. I try and let God/ an inspired man tell me when to use nature to teach me
6. I know for sure/certain then what lesson God wants me to take from nature.

**Argument # 4** FAITH ONLY Faith isn't going to stop someone from raping your wife. Some accuse many who hold my view of believing “faith only” since we might point out that we might pray to defend our family

**Answer**

1. By the way Jn. 6:39 instructs us that "faith” is a work.
2. Those that hold my view, do not subscribe to a DO NOTHING, FAITH ONLY DOCTRINE on this subject.
3. We’ve shown a vast list of options, strategies, reactions to threats in order to defend and protect ourselves and others.
4. Flee/Run, hide, yell, call cops, pray, lay down our lives, turn the other cheek, don’t fear, etc.

**Argument # 4** Exodus 22:2-3  robber break in and struck dead, no guilt.

**Answer**

1. Old testament/law of Moses instructions to physical Israel
2. Old testament has been abolished/nailed to the cross.
3. Typically they only read the first part…they should keep reading
4. Ex 222:2-3 “If the thief is found breaking in, and he is struck so that he dies, there shall be no guilt for his bloodshed. **3 If the sun has risen on him, there shall be guilt for his bloodshed.** He should make full restitution; if he has nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft.”
5. In reality there is a lot we don’t know.
6. I wish we could ask God/Moses to explain exactly if this means what it seems to mean and that if the thief broke in during the daylight hours and that same person killed him that the person who killed him was to be put to death.
7. Therefore NO DAYLIGHT SELF DEFENSE.
8. Then Read Numbers 15:32-36 “it had not been explained what should be done to him”.

Could this be an exception to the law that stated if someone killed someone intentionally they were to be put to death.

**Argument #4** Luke 11:21-22 The Strongman parable (see my parable )

They say, Jesus used a parable depicting “When a strong man, fully armed, guards his palace, his goods are safe. Per the depiction, this shows that its ok to be fully armed to protect your property and those around it.

**Answer**

1. Its seems to be teaching that God/Christ is more powerful than Beelzebub/demons and thus explains the source of Jesus ability to cast out demons
2. If this authorizes Christians to be fully armed then if would authorize the burglar to be stronger than those he is burglarizing. If not, why not?
3. Example- Mt. 24:45-51. Does this authorize masters who find their servants being wicked to “cut him into”?
4. Beware of taking every element of a parable to find authority for our behavior. They prove to much. We must give diligence to find the moral or spiritual lesson/value.

Mike Willis in Truth Magazine article entitled “The Christian and Civil Government” says:

I understand that the Old Testament is not our authority, but that I am using it to establish certain principles and distinctions as are relevant, as per Romans 15:4 and 1 Corinthians 10:6, 11. Consider what the Old Testament shows about this subject. The distinction between the proper use of civil government and personal revenge is demonstrated for us in the following passage:

If a man shall steal an ox, or a sheep, and kill it, or sell it; he shall restore five oxen for an ox, and four sheep for a sheep. If a thief be found breaking up, and be smitten that he die, there shall no blood be shed for him. If the sun be risen upon him, there shall be blood shed for him; for he should make full restitution; if he have nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft. If the theft be certainly found in his hand alive, whether it be ox, or ass, or sheep; he shall restore double (Exod. 22:1-4).

Notice the distinctions in this verse. A man who kills a thief breaking into his home is not guilty of murder. However, should he go after him and kill him the next morning (take vengeance), he has been guilty of murder and should be punished for murder. (Note the distinction between self-defense and murder.) However, the thief does not escape without punishment. If he is caught, he should make full restitution - five oxen for one ox, four sheep for one sheep. If the item stolen is still in good condition when he is found out, he shall restore double. These judgments of the court were not personal vengeance, but were divinely legislated punishments for the wicked.

Since that was true then, is it not still true today? Both were children of God in the case above. So, today, a case involving children of God may involve and include the same principle. It is not vengeance that the bank president or the store owner seeks; it is justice as assigned to those who are established to render it.

**VI. Conclusion - No New Testament authority for a Christian to intentionally cause bodily harm to another or to use deadly force in self defense**