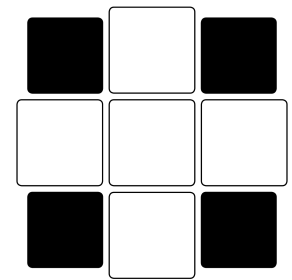


Violence and the Gospel

Scripture: **Romans 12:18-21**

Series: **Don't Go There**

Sunday, November 5, 2017



REDEEMER
FELLOWSHIP

Overview

As believers, we are called to pursue peace with all people. However, as Romans 12 makes clear, peace is not always possible. There are circumstances in which force is a necessary response to unjust violence. Scripture helps guide us as we consider issues like self-defense, defending others, war, and capital punishment. And as always, we can look to **Jesus, who saves us from violence by violence**—not by committing violence, but by suffering violence for us.

Corroborating Texts

Luke 22:35-38, Genesis 1:27, Matthew 22:37-40, Exodus 22:2-3, Psalm 82:4, James 2:14-17, Micah 6:8, Psalm 144:1, Genesis 9:5-6, Romans 13:1-4, Isaiah 53:9-10, Galatians 1:3-4

Discussion Questions

1. Read Romans 12:18-21. How does this passage convict you? How does it encourage you?
2. We should see every human being as made in the image of God and therefore having dignity and worth. We also should see everyone we interact with as our neighbor and love them as we love ourselves. How does losing sight of these truths lead to violence? Do you think losing sight of these truths leads to sinning against others in other forms (violence aside)? Why or why not?
3. Pastor Joe shared how Scripture addresses the issues of self-defense, defending others, war, and capital punishment. Were your existing viewpoints on these issues challenged by this sermon? If so, how?
4. Read James 2:14-17. How does this relate to defending others? Note that the 9th commandment—to not bear false witness against your neighbor—also conversely implies that we should stand up for, defend, and protect our neighbors. How has God used you and/or grown you in this area? How can you do better?
5. How can Micah 6:8 help us view war?
6. Read Galatians 1:3-4. How does Jesus “deliver us from the present evil age”? What does this mean? How does this give us hope in the midst of a sinful, violence-filled world?