

War and Peace, part 1

Study Notes for message on 7th February 2021

This week we started a series looking at War and Peace, in which the overall question is, 'Is it ever right for Christians to kill? If so, when?'

What is your position? Why?

Read **Matthew 5 verses 38 to 48.**

We said that Jesus calls us to a way of peace. We asked: If we claim Jesus as Lord, shouldn't we submit to his lordship?

Are there any exceptions? Why?

We also noted the call to debate such things as brothers and sisters, respecting those committed to a decision they believe is right.

We said: Jesus refers to a WAY OF LIFE. Our means themselves must reflect the end we work towards. Peace is the way and the goal.

Are there any cases where violence is acceptable for Christians to use? What and why?

We noted that, for the first three centuries after Christ, Christianity was COMPLETELY pacifist, with not one dissenting voice in leadership.

We also noted how, for the Roman Empire, Constantine persuaded Christian leaders to separate peace as a means from peace as an end.

Are there any examples of 'Christian' societies doing this today?

How do you view the early church statement: 'One of the best ways to be a witness is to die for your faith whilst you love your enemy'?

We noted that the example to follow was changed from being that of Jesus to that of Old Testament figures like David.

What was the attraction?

Finally, ask yourself if you are really willing to follow the teaching of Jesus where it leads? If you aren't, can you say why?