



It's NOT Political
It's Biblical
Part 7

Isaiah 59:12-17 AMPC

12 For our transgressions are multiplied before You [O Lord], and our sins testify against us; for our transgressions are with us, and as for our iniquities, we know and recognize them [as]:

13 *Rebelling against and denying the Lord, turning away from following our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving in and muttering and moaning from the heart words of falsehood.*

14 Justice is turned away backward, and righteousness (uprightness and right standing with God) stands far off; for truth has fallen in the street (the city's forum), and uprightness cannot enter [the courts of justice].

15 Yes, truth is lacking, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. And the Lord saw it, and it displeased Him that there was no justice.

16 *And He saw that there was no man and wondered that there was no intercessor [no one to intervene on behalf of truth and right]; therefore His own arm brought Him victory, and His own righteousness [having the Spirit without measure] sustained Him.*

17 *For [the Lord] put on righteousness as a breastplate or coat of mail, and salvation as a helmet upon His head; He put on garments of vengeance for clothing and was clad with zeal [and furious divine jealousy] as a cloak.*

Romans 1:22 AMPC

22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools [professing to be smart, they made simpletons of themselves].

The title of this series, “*It’s not Political, It’s Biblical*” will help us stay on point in regards to part 7 with it’s 2 main points: Guns and Border Security. These are both hot buttons in the political arena but should not be not as a Christian when rightly dividing God’s Word.

I have been asked by christians, non christians and pastors, “Is it moral to own and use guns?” My answer is yes, especially in the defense of oneself and others. Exodus 22:2 supports self-defense by allowing a person to kill someone who breaks into their home.

Exodus 22:2 AMPC

2 If a thief is found breaking in and is struck so that he dies, there shall be no blood shed for him.

One of the ways you can love your neighbor is by keeping them alive; even if that means you take the life of a person trying to murder your neighbor.

Matthew 22:39 AMPC

39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as [you do] yourself.

It can be difficult for others to believe that as a christian you being obedient to the command to “love others” and are looking out for them if you vote and or believe that someone can murder an innocent baby. Loving your neighbor (in word and deed) is a key part of building and maintaining strong communities and demonstrating God’s Love.

For those christians who vote for abortion or the murdering of innocent children, it is no wonder that they are the most likely to also vote against protecting life with a gun as well.

Note: To be for abortion (murdering or shedding the blood of the innocent), against guns or protecting your wife, family, neighbor, not protecting our borders for the safety of our citizens or nation is part of the package of not loving our neighbor as ourselves.

That said, I would have no problem explaining my choice to God to shoot someone if, for example, my action saved my neighbor, my wife, my family or church members from being innocently murdered. Owning a gun does come with responsibility. We need to seek out the best instruction and stewardship of safety for ourselves and others. You and I as followers of Jesus Christ should not go out and look for trouble. We should practice wisdom, peace, and edification in all circumstances.

James 3:17-18 AMPC

17 But the wisdom from above is first of all pure (undefiled); then it is peace-loving, courteous (considerate, gentle). [It is willing to] yield to reason, full of compassion and good fruits; it is wholehearted and straightforward, impartial and unfeigned (free from doubts, wavering, and insincerity).

18 And the harvest of righteousness (of conformity to God's will in thought and deed) is [the fruit of the seed] sown in peace by those who work for and make peace [in themselves and in others, that peace which means concord, agreement, and harmony between individuals, with undisturbedness, in a peaceful mind free from fears and agitating passions and moral conflicts].

A second question or follow up question I'm often asked is, "What does the Bible say about guns?" While the Bible does not speak specifically to guns, there are applicable principles. Genesis 1:26 says that humans are created in the image of God.

Genesis 1:26 AMPC

26 God said, Let Us [Father, Son, and Holy Spirit] make mankind in Our image, after Our likeness, and let them have complete authority over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the [tame] beasts, and over all of the earth, and over everything that creeps upon the earth.

The Bible also tells us in Genesis 9:6, Exodus 21:12-14, and 1 John 3:15 that there are severe consequences for taking one's life. Thus, if you put the two together, the Biblical principle is human life is priceless and worth safeguarding because we are created in God's image.

Genesis 9:6 AMPC

6 Whoever sheds man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God He made man.

Exodus 21:12-14 AMPC

12 Whoever strikes a man so that he dies shall surely be put to death.

13 But if he did not lie in wait for him, but God allowed him to fall into his hand, then I will appoint you a place to which he may flee [for protection until duly tried].

14 But if a man comes willfully upon another to slay him craftily, you shall take him from My altar [to which he may have fled for protection], that he may die.

1 John 3:15 AMPC

15 Anyone who hates (abominates, detests) his brother [in Christ] is [at heart] a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding (persevering) within him.

The Bible mention weapons. In fact, there are examples of people using weapons for self-defense. In Nehemiah chapter 4, the people of Jerusalem defended the city with their own personal weapons.

Nehemiah 4 AMPC

1 But when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and in a great rage, and he ridiculed the Jews.

2 And he said before his brethren and the army of Samaria, What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore things [at will and by themselves]? Will they [try to bribe their God] with sacrifices? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, seeing they are burned?

3 Now Tobiah the Ammonite was near him, and he said, What they build—if a fox climbs upon it, he will break down their stone wall.

4 [And Nehemiah prayed] Hear, O our God, for we are despised. Turn their taunts upon their own heads, and give them for a prey in a land of their captivity.

5 Cover not their iniquity and let not their sin be blotted out before You, for they have vexed [with alarm] the builders and provoked You.

6 So we built the wall, and all [of it] was joined together to half its height, for the people had a heart and mind to work.

7 But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabians, Ammonites, and Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were going up and that the breaches were being closed, they were very angry.

8 And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem, to injure and cause confusion and failure in it.

9 But because of them we made our prayer to our God and set a watch against them day and night.

10 And [the leaders of] Judah said, The strength of the burden bearers is weakening, and there is much rubbish; we are not able to work on the wall.

11 And our enemies said, They will not know or see till we come into their midst and kill them and stop the work.

12 And when the Jews who lived near them came, they said to us ten times, You must return [to guard our little villages]; from all places where they dwell they will be upon us.

13 So I set [armed men] behind the wall in places where it was least protected; I even thus used the people as families with their swords, spears, and bows.

14 I looked [them over] and rose up and said to the nobles and officials and the other people, Do not be afraid of the enemy; [earnestly] remember the Lord and imprint Him [on your minds], great and terrible, and [take from Him courage to] fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes.

15 And when our enemies heard that their plot was known to us and that God had frustrated their purpose, we all returned to the wall, everyone to his work.

16 And from that time forth, half of my servants worked at the task, and the other half held the spears, shields, bows, and coats of mail; and the leaders stood behind all the house of Judah.

17 Those who built the wall and those who bore burdens loaded themselves so that everyone worked with one hand and held a weapon with the other hand,

18 *And every builder had his sword girded by his side, and so worked. And he who sounded the trumpet was at my side.*

19 *And I said to the nobles and officials and the rest of the people, The work is great and scattered, and we are separated on the wall, one far from another.*

20 *In whatever place you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us.*

21 *So we labored at the work while half of them held the spears from dawn until the stars came out.*

22 *At that time also I said to the people, Let everyone with his servant lodge within Jerusalem, that at night they may be a guard to us and a laborer during the day.*

23 *So none of us—I, my kinsmen, my servants, nor the men of the guard who followed me—took off our clothes; each kept his weapon [in his hand for days].*

We have the instance of the apostles, who had weapons. On the evening Jesus was betrayed, He instructed his disciples to buy and carry swords.

Luke 22:28-39 AMPC

28 *And you are those who have remained [throughout] and persevered with Me in My trials;*

29 *And as My Father has appointed a kingdom and conferred it on Me, so do I confer on you [the privilege and decree],*

30 *That you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

31 *Simon, Simon (Peter), listen! Satan [a]has asked excessively that [all of] you be given up to him [out of the power and keeping of God], that he might sift [all of] you like grain,*

32 *But I have prayed especially for you [Peter], that your [own] faith may not fail; and when you yourself have turned again, strengthen and establish your brethren.*

33 *And [Simon Peter] said to Him, Lord, I am ready to go with You both to prison and to death.*

34 *But Jesus said, I tell you, Peter, before a [single] cock shall crow this day, you will three times [utterly] deny that you know Me.*

35 And He said to them, When I sent you out with no purse or [provision] bag or sandals, did you lack anything? They answered, Nothing!

36 Then He said to them, But now let him who has a purse take it, and also [his provision] bag; and let him who has no sword sell his mantle and buy a sword.

37 For I tell you that this Scripture must yet be fulfilled in Me: And He was counted and classed among the wicked (the outlaws, the criminals); for what is written about Me has its fulfillment [has reached its end and is finally settled].

38 And they said, Look, Lord! Here are two swords. And He said to them, It is enough.

39 And He came out and went, as was His habit, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples also followed Him.

At a different time, soldiers (who would carry weapons) came to be baptized by John the Baptist. When they inquired what to do to live for God, John said, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages” (Luke 3:14). John did not say to give up their weapons. The bottom line here is these are examples of a case where personal weapons are not condemned and are also used for protection.

What About Pacifism?

Pacifism is “opposition to war or violence as a means of settling disputes. Pacifists refuse, on moral or religious grounds, to bear arms or engage in any type of physical resistance. They believe that all disputes can and should be settled in peaceful, non-violent ways.”[6] Various Christians argue that the Bible demands pacifism. They think that the full amount of Jesus’ teachings demand His disciples to give up their weapons and encourage peace.

The denial to safeguard innocent life can be serious harm. If a brutal guy came after my wife, and I did not do everything in my control to halt his assault—even if it meant killing him to protect my wife—then I would have broken a deep responsibility as a husband.

Hosea 4:6 AMPC

6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you [the priestly nation] have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you that you shall be no priest to Me; seeing you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your children.

Hosea 4:6 KJV

6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

Note: _____

The second point or question of part 7 is: **Should Christians support border security or open borders?** In our climate of political correctness and the liberal or liberating from the truth godless media Christians often face moral dilemmas in addressing the issue of immigration.

What should be the Christian's response to people who want a better life and try and come to America? Should we close the borders or welcome them into our nation? What is a biblical view of border security?

As Christians, we ought to desire the safety and welfare of all people. We should be compassionate (Col. 3:12), love our neighbor (Lev. 19:18), and relieve him of his burden (Exodus 23:5). We are not to oppress the stranger (Exodus 23:9). And finally, the Old Testament speaks of loving the aliens in our land (Deut. 10:19).

Okay, so this is all good...but, anyone can take a few passages and put them together to get their own desired outcome which God's Word says:

Jeremiah 17:9 AMPC

9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and it is exceedingly perverse and corrupt and severely, mortally sick! Who can know it [perceive, understand, be acquainted with his own heart and mind]?

2 Timothy 2:15 AMPC

15 Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth.

What does God's Word say? The whole counsel and how do we do these "things" being wise without injuring ourselves and others without overburdening our nation? We should seek to find ways to help people make their lives better. But how far do we take this? Do we just open our borders and let anybody come in who wants to? Or, do we require that immigrants obey our laws and enter our country legally?

Biblically speaking, there are several additional issues that are relevant to this issue. First, **Submit to the governing authorities and laws.**

Romans 13:1-2 AMPC

1 Let every person be loyally subject to the governing (civil) authorities. For there is no authority except from God [by His permission, His sanction], and those that exist do so by God's appointment.

2 Therefore he who resists and sets himself up against the authorities resists what God has appointed and arranged [in divine order]. And those who resist will bring down judgment upon themselves [receiving the penalty due them].

As Christians, we are to submit to the rulership of our respective countries. We are to abide by the laws within those nations – unless those laws are against Scripture. Furthermore, nations pass laws for their own prosperity and security. Its inhabitants are obligated to submit to those laws. Therefore, we ought to require others who are not our citizens, to submit to our laws if they wish to live in our country.

If I were to move to another country, I would not demand that they changed their language to suit me or change their laws for my benefit, especially if I came in illegally. As a Christian, I'm obligated to follow the laws of the countries to which I sojourn. By analogy, when I enter someone's home, I do not break in illegally and require that they live according to my standards. I am in their home and need to submit to their rules.

The enforcement of laws sends the right message. We are a nation of laws. These laws were enacted by due process and are subject to change by additional due process. If we, as a nation, repeatedly ignore our own laws and allow illegal immigration, then...

- It sends a bad message to other nations, as well as our own population
- It encourages further lawbreaking by rewarding illegal immigration.
- It raises the concern that if our government breaks its own laws in one area, then it also may **(will and has)** do so in others.

Secondly, **The right of private property and self-protection.** The Bible supports the right of private property when it prohibits theft (Exodus 20:15) as well as warning against coveting your neighbor's possessions (Deut. 5:21). We have the right to work and be paid for labor (Lev. 19:13; Deut. 24:15). We have the right to do with what is ours as we see fit (Acts 5:4) as well as the right of self-protection (Luke 22:36).

Though these issues may not be as directly related to all aspects of illegal immigration, they are certainly indirectly related. We must consider the possibility that some of those illegal immigrants are people who are seeking to escape the consequences of their lawbreaking in their own countries. Do we want them here?

Of course, there are those who desire to come here for good reasons such as wanting to obtain a better life, escape persecution, etc. But there are also wicked people who smuggle many into America for horrible reasons such as sex trafficking, child trafficking, indentured servitude, etc.

Our immigration laws are there, in part, to prevent the spread of evil. Then there's the issue of unintentionally allowing extremists, i.e. Islamic terrorists, to enter into our country and to lie in wait until it is time to strike. Of course, there is no guarantee through vetting that we can prevent all undesirables from entering. But, open borders significantly contribute to that danger and with no enforcing of our laws where anybody and everybody can enter our country is that it leads to an increase in crime. - that is a fact.

Thirdly, The Bible and Border Security. It is not very common knowledge that **God sets up borders between nations.** Because of this, we could easily make the case that the borders that separate nations are ordained by God.

Acts 17:26 AMPC

*26 And He made from one [common origin, one source, one blood] all nations of men to settle on the face of the earth, having definitely determined [their] allotted periods of time and **the fixed boundaries of their habitation (their settlements, lands, and abodes),***

Deuteronomy 32:8 AMPC

*8 When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, **when He separated the children of men, He set the bounds of the peoples according to the number of the Israelites.***

Deuteronomy 19:14 AMPC

*14 **You shall not remove your neighbor's landmark in the land** which the Lord your God gives you to possess, which the men of old [the first dividers of the land] set.*

Deuteronomy 27:17 AMPC

17 Cursed is he who moves [back] his neighbor's landmark. All the people shall say, Amen.

Borders help keep order and they presuppose the division of properties, the right of private property as well as security, and are a passive rebuke against coveting someone else's land and resources.

This last point about coveting is important because America is an exceedingly prosperous country. Many people in the world covet our prosperity and what to have it. Some, even want to destroy it. Biblically speaking borders are established by God and therefore they ought to be respected. This means, along with the Romans 13 requirement to submit to governmental authorities, that immigrants must respect borders and not cross them illegally.

Fourthly, What about the sojourner? What does the Bible say about the sojourner? And how does this impact our view of border security?

God's Word says that those who sojourn in the land and that they are to be cared for. Let's look at some of the Scriptures...

Exodus 2:22, “Then she gave birth to a son, and he named him Gershom, for he said, ‘I have been a sojourner [גֵּר, ger, Strong's 1616, 92 occurrences] in a foreign land.’”

Leviticus 25:23, “The land, moreover, shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are but aliens and sojourners [תּוֹשָׁב Strong's 8453, 14 occurrences] with Me.”

Leviticus 25:35, “Now in case a countryman of yours becomes poor and his means with regard to you falter, then you are to sustain him, like a stranger or a sojourner [תּוֹשָׁב Strong's 8453, 14 occurrences], that he may live with you.”

Deuteronomy 5:14, “but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant or your ox or your donkey or any of your cattle or your sojourner [גֵּר, ger, Strong's 1616, 92 occurrences] who stays with you, so that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you.”

1 Chronicles 29:15, “For we are sojourners [גֵּר, ger, Strong's 1616, 92 occurrences] before You, and tenants, as all our fathers were; our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no hope.”

There are two main Hebrew words for a sojourner: גֵּר, ger, Strong's 1616, which occurs 92 times and תּוֹשָׁב, toshab, Strong's 8453 which occurs 14. Basically, a sojourner is a traveler through a nation. Sometimes he stays for a long time and other times he does not.

Let's consider basic dictionaries on the definition of “Sojourner.”

- “a temporary stay” (<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/sojourner>)
- “to stay as a temporary resident” (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/sojourner>)
- “A temporary stay.” (<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/sojourn>)

The issue of saying that illegal immigrants are equal to sojourners does not work. Though some sojourners stayed for long periods of time in the Bible, others did not. But the overall emphasis was that they were not naturally born there and that they were, generally speaking, passing through. Nevertheless, even if the sojourner Scriptures are used in support of immigration, there still the issues mentioned above about coming into our country legally, and not being a burden upon our economy.

Liberals, or liberating from the truth, the laws that have been established to make a nation safe and secure allow (encourage) people to illegally come into communities, schools and homes and rewarding them with citizenship, catering to their language and culture, and granting them voting privileges – which are used to keep the leftists in power.

They do not feel the effects of their decisions that impact others. Why? they are in political control and can vote themselves raises, medical benefits, protection, and other such amenities. Liberals don't feel the financial burden that a sudden onslaught of illegal immigrants brings to our economy and local regions, and how it takes away jobs from those who are legal citizens as well as puts a financial burden on infrastructure and services within our country.

In the last 2 years we have seen many liberal mayors such as in Chicago, New York have to deal with the consequences of their continued practice of not abiding by the laws of this country. With illegal immigrants taking over cities and causing financial hardship, increase of crime, loss of tax dollars by the decline in property values and onetime resident leaving not only their hometown but their state all together.

People should be able and will still come into our country from other nations, as Christians we ought to require that they do it legally. As follower's of Jesus Christ (in word and deed) who should we vote? Which party, platform, candidate(s) more closely align with God's Word making Romans 13 that much easier for us in the natural to follow.

Romans 13 AMPC

1 Let every person be loyally subject to the governing (civil) authorities. For there is no authority except from God [by His permission, His sanction], and those that exist do so by God's appointment.

2 Therefore he who resists and sets himself up against the authorities resists what God has appointed and arranged [in divine order]. And those who resist will bring down judgment upon themselves [receiving the penalty due them].

3 For civil authorities are not a terror to [people of] good conduct, but to [those of] bad behavior. Would you have no dread of him who is in authority? Then do what is right and you will receive his approval and commendation.

4 For he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, [you should dread him and] be afraid, for he does not bear and wear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant to execute His wrath (punishment, vengeance) on the wrongdoer.

5 Therefore one must be subject, not only to avoid God's wrath and escape punishment, but also as a matter of principle and for the sake of conscience.

6 For this same reason you pay taxes, for [the civil authorities] are official servants under God, devoting themselves to attending to this very service.

7 Render to all men their dues. [Pay] taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, and honor to whom honor is due.

8 Keep out of debt and owe no man anything, except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor [who practices loving others] has fulfilled the Law [relating to one's fellowmen, meeting all its requirements].

9 The commandments, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not kill, You shall not steal, You shall not covet (have an evil desire), and any other commandment, are summed up in the single command, You shall love your neighbor as [you do] yourself.

10 Love does no wrong to one's neighbor [it never hurts anybody]. Therefore love meets all the requirements and is the fulfilling of the Law.

11 Besides this you know what [a critical] hour this is, how it is high time now for you to wake up out of your sleep (rouse to reality). For salvation (final deliverance) is nearer to us now than when we first believed (adhered to, trusted in, and relied on Christ, the Messiah).

12 The night is far gone and the day is almost here. Let us then drop (fling away) the works and deeds of darkness and put on the [full] armor of light.

13 Let us live and conduct ourselves honorably and becomingly as in the [open light of] day, not in reveling (carousing) and drunkenness, not in immorality and debauchery (sensuality and licentiousness), not in quarreling and jealousy.

14 But clothe yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah), and make no provision for [indulging] the flesh [put a stop to thinking about the evil cravings of your physical nature] to [gratify its] desires (lusts).



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