

Questions About Justification for Use of Guns and Firearms

By Pastor Ed Anderson

Pastor - do you advocate for guns? If yes - how do you justify the use of firearms?

Answer:

That's a sincere and important question—especially in today's world where personal safety, civil rights, and Christian convictions often intersect. As a pastor committed to biblical truth and the teachings of Jesus, here's how I would respond thoughtfully and biblically:

Do I Advocate for Guns?

Not in a blanket way.

I do **not** tell every believer to own a gun.

But I also **do not condemn** those who prayerfully and responsibly choose to do so.

I believe the Bible teaches a principle of **wise stewardship, spiritual readiness, and situational responsibility**—not a one-size-fits-all answer.

Biblical Foundation: Defense is Not Unbiblical

1. Jesus Acknowledged the Right to Self-Defense

“He who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one.”

— *Luke 22:36*

Jesus said this right before His arrest. The sword then was the equivalent of personal protection. He didn't say to start a revolution—but He acknowledged they were heading into dangerous times and needed to be prepared.

2. Old Testament Examples

- **Nehemiah's Wall Builders:**

“Those who built the wall...worked with one hand and held a weapon in the other.”
(Nehemiah 4:17)

- **Abraham armed his men** (Genesis 14:14) to rescue Lot. God didn't rebuke him for doing so.

These examples show **self-defense is not condemned** when used for protection—not aggression.

BUT – Here's the Balance

3. Jesus Also Said:

“All who take the sword will perish by the sword.”
— *Matthew 26:52*

This was in the Garden of Gethsemane when Peter tried to defend Jesus by violence.

● Key principle: **Violence is not how we advance the kingdom of God.**

So while defense is acknowledged, **vengeance, escalation, or fear-based living is not.**

Moral Framework for Firearm Ownership

If a Christian chooses to own a firearm, it should be under **four guiding convictions**:

1. **Spiritual Readiness:** Never place more trust in a weapon than in Christ.
2. **Moral Restraint:** It is for defense of life only—never for revenge or intimidation.
3. **Legal Responsibility:** Obey all local laws and regulations.
4. **Prayerful Purpose:** You must ask yourself, *Would Jesus approve of how and why I have this?*

My Personal Stance as a Pastor

- I **pray first**, not shoot first.
- I **teach preparation**, not paranoia.
- I **stand for life**, not violence.
- I believe in being **wise as serpents, harmless as doves** (Matthew 10:16).
- I **emphasize spiritual warfare** more than physical defense.

● If persecution comes—and it will (Matthew 24, Revelation 13)—our greatest weapon won't be bullets. It will be **faith, courage, and the Word of God.**

What About When Persecution Comes?

Some ask: *When the end-time crisis hits, should we defend ourselves with weapons?*

The answer: **No.**

When the final crisis comes, **Jesus calls us to flee, not fight.**

“If they persecute you in one city, flee to another.” — *Matthew 10:23*

We will be called to **surrender all for Christ’s sake**, even our lives (Revelation 12:11).

Firearms may have a role in **protecting family now**, but **not in resisting spiritual persecution.**

Final Word:

Yes, I believe that **in a sinful world**, protecting innocent life is sometimes necessary.

No, I do not believe that firearms are a replacement for faith, prayer, or God’s protection.

Every believer must **prayerfully, biblically, and responsibly** decide what God is calling them to do. But above all:

“Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.”

— *Psalms 20:7*