

Chapter 17

War and Peace

Questions for Discussion and Reflection

1. What are the Biblical principles behind just war and pacifism?
2. Where do you stand on the overall issue of warfare? Why?
3. How does the follower of Christ (called to be a peacemaker) differ from the citizen of Israel in Old Testament times (called to fight for Israel)?
4. “James is writing to a church about quarrels and fights that arise internally, but the reason given is the root cause of all conflicts: self-driven cravings, whether for property, power, conquest, or destruction.” We might define this as “covetousness,” forbidden in the 10th commandment. Where have you seen covetousness manifested in your own life this past week? What do you plan to do about it?
5. Consider the position of the “social justice” authors and the arguments given against the social justice movement. Which position do you lean toward, and why?
6. Explain how “(a) case can be made for a national military, based on Biblical truth.” Can this be consistent with Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, specifically the command to “turn the other cheek”?
7. Was Jesus a perfect pacifist? Explain your answer.
8. Summarize the “Just War” theory. Do you agree with this position?
9. Which of the “four legitimate positions Christians have taken on warfare” do you most closely align yourself with?
10. Is defense work a violation of the First Canon of the Engineering Code of Ethics (“Engineers shall hold paramount the health, safety, and welfare of the public.”)? Why or why not?
11. “The Christian is specifically called by God to peace and peacemaking.” Where and with whom is God calling you to be a peacemaker?