

## Christians, War and Self Defense

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### Assertions/Conclusions of this Article

Simply to show that believers aren't instructed against being in the military and that scripture does not condemn bearing the sword (lawfully carrying a weapon).

### Supporting Evidence

Leaders are shown as "bearing the sword" in God's WORD.

This leader is said to be GODS SERVANT, thereby PROVING that GODS SERVANT CAN BEAR the SWORD !

We are ALL God's servants who follow him and where we are AUTHORIZED to do so, as CHL holders like myself ARE, I'm sorry but the scriptures ARE with us in using the sword where it is just to do so. Those who DO EVIL SHOULD FEAR God's SERVANT who is AUTHORIZED to bear the sword !

*For he is God's servant to you for good. But if you do evil, fear; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's servant, an avenger for wrath to the one practicing evil.*

*(Rom 13:4 EMTV)*

For he beareth not the sword in vain -

The "sword" is an instrument of punishment, as well as an emblem of war. Princes were accustomed to wear a sword as an emblem of their authority; and the "sword" was often used for the purpose of "beheading," or otherwise punishing the guilty. The meaning of the apostle is, that he does not wear this badge of authority as an unmeaningful show, but that it will be used to execute the laws. As this is the design of the power intrusted to him, and as he will "exercise" his authority, people should be influenced "by fear" to keep the law, even if there were no better motive.

A revenger ... -

In Rom\_12:19, vengeance is said to belong to God. Yet he "executes" his vengeance by means of subordinate agents. It belongs to him to take vengeance by direct judgments, by the plague, famine, sickness, or earthquakes; by the appointment of magistrates; or by letting loose the passions of people to prey upon each other. When a magistrate inflicts punishment on the guilty, it is to be regarded as the act of God taking vengeance "by him;" and on this principle only is it right for a judge to condemn a man to death. It is not because one man has by nature any right over the life of another, or because "society" has any right collectively which it has not as individuals; but because "God" gave life, and because he has chosen to take it away when crime is committed by the appointment of magistrates, and not by coming forth himself visibly to execute the laws. Where "human" laws fail, however, he often takes vengeance into his own hands, and by the plague, or some signal judgments, sweeps the guilty into eternity.

-Albert Barnes

a revenge to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil;

he is a defender of the laws, a vindicator of divine justice, an avenger of the wrongs of men; and his business is to inflict proper punishment, which is meant by wrath, upon delinquents.

- John Gill

Rom 13:4 The sword -

The instrument of capital punishment, which God authorizes him to inflict.

-John Wesley

For he is the minister of God, a revenger -

Θεοῦ διακονος εστιν εκδικος, For he is God's vindictive minister, to execute wrath; εις οργην, to inflict punishment upon the transgressors of the law; and this according to the statutes of that law; for God's civil ministers are never allowed to pronounce or inflict punishment according to their own minds or feeling, but according to the express declarations of the law.

-Adam Clarke

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*Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock?*

*(1Co 9:7 KJV)*

G4754

στρατεύομαι

strateuomai

Thayer Definition:

1) to make a military expedition, to lead soldiers to war or to battle, (spoken of a commander)

2) to do military duty, be on active service, be a soldier

3) to fight

Part of Speech: verb

A Related Word by Thayer's/Strong's Number: middle voice from the base of G4756

Citing in TDNT: 7:701, 1091

And the Strongs says...

G4754

στρατεύομαι

strateuomai

strat-yoo'-om-ahee

Middle voice from the base of G4756; to serve in a military campaign; figuratively to execute the apostolate (with its arduous duties and functions), to contend with carnal inclinations: - soldier, (go to) war (-fare).

1Co 9:7

Who goeth a warfare - at his own charges? -

These questions, which are all supposed from the necessity and propriety of the cases to be answered in the affirmative, tend more forcibly to point out that the common sense of man joins with the providence of God in showing the propriety of every man living by the fruits of his labor. The first question applies particularly to the case of the apostle, τις στρατεύεται ἰδίοις ὀψωνίοις. Does a soldier provide his own victuals? Ὀψωνιον is used to express the military pay or wages, by the Greek writers; for the Roman soldiers were paid not only in money but in victuals; and hence corn was usually distributed among them. See on Luk\_3:14 (note).

-Adaam Clarke

There IS a time for war.

*Ecc 3:1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:*

*Ecc 3:2 A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;*

*Ecc 3:3 A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;*

*Ecc 3:4 A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;*

*Ecc 3:5 A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;*

*Ecc 3:6 A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;*

*Ecc 3:7 A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;*

*Ecc 3:8 A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.*

*These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, and elect, and faithful."*

*(Rev 17:14 EMTV)*

*For they are spirits of demons performing signs, which go forth to the kings of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.*

*(Rev 16:14 EMTV)*

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*Luke 3:14 Likewise the soldiers also were asking him, saying, "And what shall we do?" So he said to them, "Do not intimidate anyone or accuse anyone falsely, and be content with your wages."*

John would have TOLD them to QUIT their jobs \*IF\* BEING a soldier was forbidden for Christians....He DIDNT.

What He tells them is not to INTIMIDATE....which the word indicate just that....

G1286

διασεῖω

diaseiō

Thayer Definition:

1) to shake thoroughly

2) to make to tremble

3) to terrify

4) to agitate

5) to extort from one by intimidation money or other property

Part of Speech: verb

A Related Word by Thayer's/Strong's Number: from G1223 and G4579

...and not to accuse anyone and to be CONTENT with their WAGES !....these are SOLDIERS He's talking to

Given the context that Romans were occupying Israel at that time and clearly were a bit rough with the Jews given their treatment of Jesus and their inspiring fear, it is no wonder that John tells these soldiers not to intimidate.

That DOESNT MEAN that they could not fight or defend if attacked.

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*The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.*

*When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

*And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.*

*(Mat 8:8-13 KJV)*

Huh.....no mention there to quit his day job and Jesus even HEALED this military mans servant !  
Would have been a perfect point for Jesus to TELL the guy to stop being a soldier IF it were required !

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The disciples were NOT pacifists as some deceptively assert.

*Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.*

*(Joh 18:10 KJV)*

\*IF\* Peter WAS a pacifist, gent, Peter would NOT HAVE used that SWORD  
Had Jesus not stopped him he'd likely have done far worse.

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*Exo 22:2 If a thief is found breaking in, and is struck so that he dies, no blood shall be shed for him.*