

# The Christian Man and Violence

- Everyone has a different definition of violence, GET THEM ALL TO HAVE THEIR OWN DEFINITION
- Give them biblical definition:
  - **VIOLENCE** the use of physical force, usually with an intent to violate or destroy. Violence is a violation of Gods perfect order. Thus the Greek word translated as violent force applies to the disorderly mob of Acts 21:35. But if godly people are subject to the human instability that causes violence, they also have the hope of seeking refuge in Gods stability ([2 Sam.:22:3](#)). Faith in Him can lead to a quenching of the violence of fire ([Heb.:11:34](#)).
  - Unnecessary roughness or hostility
  - An act of aggression that:
    - is an easy way out
    - is a sign of weakness
    - feels good
    - gets attention

## Orthodox Proofs Against Violence

- Matthew 5:9 **Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.**"
- Matthew 10:16 <sup>16</sup> **"Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves."**
- John 18:19-23 <sup>19</sup> The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine. <sup>20</sup> Jesus answered him, **"I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing. <sup>21</sup> Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them. Indeed they know what I said."** <sup>22</sup> And when He had said these things, one of the officers who stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, "Do You answer the high priest like that?" <sup>23</sup> Jesus answered him, **"If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why do you strike Me?"**
- Matthew 26:51-53 <sup>51</sup> And suddenly, one of those *who were* with Jesus stretched out *his* hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. <sup>52</sup> But Jesus said to him, **"Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will <sup>o</sup>perish by the sword.**
- Luke 9:54-56. <sup>54</sup> And when His disciples James and John saw *this*, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, <sup>o</sup>just as Elijah did?" <sup>55</sup> But He turned and rebuked them, <sup>o</sup>and said, **"You do not know what manner of spirit you**

are of. <sup>56</sup>•For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save *them*."

The challenge obviously irritated the Jews. It left them without a case. And so they resorted to abuse. One of the officers slapped Jesus for speaking to the high priest like that.

[18:23](#) With perfect poise and unanswerable logic, the Savior showed the unfairness of their position. They could not accuse Him of speaking evil; yet they struck Him for telling the truth.

**MEEKNESS** an attitude of humility toward God and gentleness toward people, springing from a recognition that God is in control. Although weakness and meekness may look similar, they are not the same. Weakness is due to negative circumstances, such as lack of strength or lack of courage. But meekness is due to a person's conscious choice. It is strength and courage under control, coupled with kindness.

The apostle Paul once pointed out that the spiritual leaders of the church have great power, even leverage, in confronting a sinner. But he cautioned them to retrain themselves in meekness (Gal. 6:1; 5:22-23).

Meekness is a virtue practiced and commended by our Lord Jesus ([Matt.:5:5](#); 11:29). As such it is part of the equipment that every follower of Jesus should wear ([2 Cor.:10:1](#);[Gal.:5:23](#); 6:1; Eph. 4:12).

## The Teachings of Jesus Concerning Violence

Our Lord rejected violence for He said, "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth" (Matthew 5:5). He also preached and said, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God" (Matthew 5:9).

Again, He said, "Whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also" (Matthew 5:39). To His apostles, He said, "I send you as sheep in the midst of wolves, therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves" (Matthew 10:16).

St. John Chrysostom comments upon this saying, "you can be a savage wolf and unwilling to be meek as sheep, but you cannot be of Christ's fold because He is the shepherd of sheep and not of wolves."

Jesus rejects violence in His life: When He was interrogated by the religious leader of the Jews, the latter asked Him about His disciples and His teachings. Jesus courageously answered that He taught in public. At that point, one of the soldiers hit Jesus, according to the gospel of St. John, and said to Him "Do You answer the high priest like that? Jesus answered him, 'If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why do you strike

Me?" (John 18:22-23). It is important to stop for a while and meditate on the words of Jesus. Jesus did not turn the other cheek to the soldier who hit Him, neither did He reveal any sign of humiliation, subjugation, or depression in his reaction. However, He did put an end to the man's aggression by using a tone characterized by meekness and manliness, as well as being awesome and sublime. This underlines that meekness of a Christian is not due to cowardice but rather to forgiveness arising from spiritual ability and power. These characteristics enable a Christian to overcome his own weakness and physical nature. When the Lord was crucified, He faced the worst form of hatred with ultimate love as He called aloud, on the Cross and prayed on behalf of His murderers.

#### **IV. Why Does Christianity Reject Violence?**

Violence rejects love since it considers a person like an object that should be destroyed rather than someone who should be respected.

Violence is weakness because it fears others, while meekness is strength, and love is power and perfection.

Violence disregards man's humanity, while Christianity strengthens it and opposes contempt for others.

Violence involves pride since it involves exaggerated self-confidence, while the meek tolerates discussion and listens to other

#### **VII. Christian Meekness Implies True Power**

Jesus was firm without bearing any hatred in many instances (check Matthew 17:17; John 3:13-16).

Meekness does not mean making compromises or bargaining with evil or making peace with the wicked, because it arises from love and truth.