

Self-defense – What does the Bible say?

refer: <http://www.compellingtruth.org/self-defense.html>

Many people have a confused view about what the Bible says in regards to self-defense. The law given in Exodus 22:2-3 says that if a man breaks into a home to steal at night, the home-owner has the right to kill him in defense. In daylight, when the home-owner can see that he is there to steal and not to kill, he cannot kill the thief in defense. In Luke 22:37-39, Jesus explains it is good to be appropriately armed. In Proverbs 25:21-22 and Romans 12:17, Scriptures say to not repay evil with evil, but to bless your enemies. And in Matthew 5:39, Jesus said if someone slaps your right cheek, offer them your left as well.

The Bible has very few laws regarding self-defense, but plenty of examples. When ***Lot and his people were captured, Abram had no problem rescuing him with force** (Genesis 14:13-16).

* In Luke 22:36, Jesus advised His disciples to take swords along with their other provisions.

*Then again, David refused to harm Saul, even though Saul was trying to kill him. And Jesus scolded Peter for using a sword to fight off the guards that were taking Jesus away (John 18:10-11).

What's the difference? **The timing and the situation. In a situation with an unknown aggressor with unknown intent**, as in Exodus 22:2, it is okay to use self-defense. If the offense has already occurred, as in Proverbs 25 and Romans 12, **we should not take the law into our own hands, but seek justice through the authorities.**

David refused to kill Saul because Saul was God's anointed king and authority. Jesus condemned Peter's action not because of his intent to defend Christ, but because Peter was getting in the way of God's plan for the guards to take Jesus.

The Matthew 5 passage is stickiest. It appears to say that we are to take whatever abuse comes our way quietly. **But a "slap on the cheek" didn't mean physical violence. It refers to an insult against honor.**

We are not to defend our honor with physical violence, but shrug it off.

Another situation that occasionally comes up is what if a wife is a trained fighter and the husband is not? Should the husband, as protector, defend his wife? Or should he let his wife be the aggressor? **Although the Bible allows that women may be involved in battle**, the Bible doesn't speak of this specific scenario. It's best if the husband and wife talk about this beforehand. They need to know each other's strengths and determine how to work together before the threat even arises.

These are the examples we should follow—**to determine the real threat and wisely act accordingly. It is fine to be armed, but it is better to escape unscathed than to needlessly kill an attacker.**

Foot Note: by Rev .Dr. Graham Healy

The above is a very good summary and a OVER-VIEW of self Defence in the Bible, Further to the above please note : Mathew 5:38 ' Turn the other cheek" is (by many Christians especially complete pacifists) taken to the Letter or out of context when looked at the 'whole bible' and the actions of the God head (Father ,Son, and the Holy Spirit) **Mathew 5:38 is just a personal insult level and not elevated to AGRAVATED PERSON ASSULT as this is a completely different matter both legally and morally .** And God has implemented the *RULE OF LAW in the Ministry of Government ,Police and Army to 'bear the sword' and 'execute wrath on wrongdoers' refer Romans 13* and www.fitforchristministries.com where I cover these subjects separately .

On this Subject Legally refer to **Australian Law Criminal Act 1899** (refer my web site www.commandokravmagaustralia.com for pdf files on the Criminal Act 1899 and read it

for yourself., in **“proportion responses to physical assaults’** which is very close to the Biblical examples especially expanded upon by Jesus .

The above article from www.commpellingtruth.or pretty well covers the subject.

But also remember the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit act AS ONE UNIT in the whole bible and so all instructions and actions and commands are backed up 100% by the Holy trinity , including the ‘physical death sentence’ on ‘murder’.

Here are some points you would like to consider regarding biblical Hero’s of the FAITH **ACTING ON GOD’S COMMANDS** and in saying that that means the Holy Trinity’s commands **because God the Father gives the Orders ,Jesus (God the Son) listens and SPEAKS THOSE ORDERS , and (God the Holy Spirit) carries them out, consistently from Genesis to Revelations .**

To try to separate the Holy Trinities actions is heresy also here are some of the many examples of both the “Death sentence’ carried out by the Prophets of God, or in some cases God himself (actually physical death). **So Self-Defence is basically “PROPORTIONATE SELF-PROTECTION”** all other actions (for example the death sentences , carried out by the Prophets ,on God’s instructions, or in some cases by the Holy spirit himself are **JUDGEMENTS determined by God himself** (seeing all things past, present and future) but on our level we have the RIGHT of self-preservation, but also we have the Government Authorities to turn to (Police and Army) and the system of Law and Order instituted by God himself (Romans 13).

Examples of the Death Sentence carried out under the Direct orders of God ?

Here are a small sample :

*Moses orders Levies to kill 3,500 men(after the ‘Golden Calf event).

Ex 32:28 <http://biblehub.com/exodus/32-28.htm>

***Elijah the prophet kills 450 prophets of ball after defeating them**

1 kings 18:40 ⁴⁰Then Elijah said, “Capture the prophets of Baal! Don’t let any of them run away!” The people captured all the prophets. Then Elijah led them down to the Kishon Valley, where he killed them.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Kings+18&version=NCV>

***Joshua takes the promised land and the many battles and blood shed there**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+1&version=NLT>

***King David**

-**Kills Goliath 1 Samuel 17**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+1&version=NLT>

-**King Davids mighty men “Battle Commanders and warriors “ 2Sam 23:8-39**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Samuel%2023:8-39>

***King Saul in Battle over Amorites 1 sam 11**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+11&version=NLV>

***Samson kills a 1,000 philistines with a jaw bone off an ass Judges 15**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/commentaries/Matthew-Henry/Judg/Samson-Kills-Thousand-Jaw-Bone>

***Deborah Leader of Israel a Judge (The prophetess) and Barak and later Jael kills Sisera : Judges 4**

²¹ But Heber’s wife Jael picked up a tent stake and a hammer. She went quietly over to Sisera. He was lying there, fast asleep. He was very tired. She drove the stake through his head right into the ground. So he died.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Judges+4&version=NIRV>

***Father of the Faith Abram rescues Lot and his family with a militia of 300 men**
Gen 14

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+14>

* **and even the Holy Spirit executes Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+5&version=LEB>

***Jesus returns as a Battle Commander in Revelations Rev 19:11-16**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+19%3A11-16&version=NKJV>

-blood in that battle up to the bridle of the horses:

rev 14:20 <http://biblehub.com/revelation/14-20.htm>

-Jesus return in Isaiah 'Blood saturated robe' the Day of Vengeance and Redemption

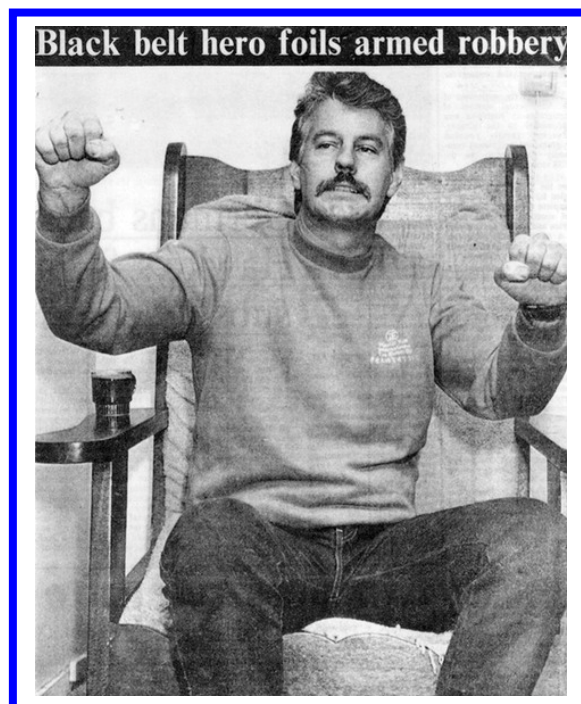
Isaiah 63

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+63>

The list is long and the instances more numerous than listed here .

Defending homes, property, and family's falls under the 'Self defence' scenario. we are called to PEACE but, RIGHTEOUS ANGER and JUSTICE go hand in hand, and God himself has set up the Justice system (Romans 13) so that we don't take the Law into our own hands , self defence fall under (self preservation) and is usually 'spontaneous' in reaction to an event that 'you have no other choice' but to defend yourself.(see personal example below)

For me personally I have had many instances of personal self defense the major one being defending against a ARMED ROBBER in 1985 that made front page news , see this link here :



During this event 1985 I was attacked by a Shotgun wielding Robber , and had no time to consult my Bible, ring the pastor, or have a 4 hour coffee conversation on

the 'theology' of what I should do .

Here is the Link on my web site to read the PDF file.

<http://www.healyshealth.com/#!personal-protection/cfvq>

During this 'self defence situation' I heard **CLEARLY THE HOLY SPIRIT in a AUDIBLE VOICE** . and in the Self-defence situation that arose, I had secured the Shotgun , bare handed ,from the attacker and pointed the Gun to the Head of the Attacker , to try to get him to 'get out of the car' (for police arrest) , AT THAT POINT I didn't really know if the Shot-gun was loaded , as I pointed the Shotgun to the temple of the attacker and said "GET OUT OF THE CAR NOW!" the Holy-spirit audible spoke to me and said " **IF YOU PULL THE TRIGGER YOU WILL BE A MURDERER** " I immediately pulled the gun away and aimed at the car tyre (it was a big four wheel drive car) and BANG ! (The shotgun was loaded alright) a PUFF of black smoke as the shot hit the tyre ,puffed into the air . The robber started the car and raced off into the distance. The Police were called and brought out tracker dogs and caught and charged the robber.

I DID NOT EVEN HAVE TO APPEAR IN COURT the Police and the Legal system took care of the whole situation , as I was an INNOCENT PARTY to this event and I believe had GOD'S PROTECTION all the way through, even to the point of not having to appear in court.

Romans 13 clearly states that Government, Police and Army are a ministry of Justice appointed by God himself and this was a clear practical example by me personally.

I have many other 'real world 'events where I have acted in 'self-defense' and NEVER ONCE did anything of a legal nature come against me, even though I have had to go to police stations etc , I found that if you ACT IN GOOD FAITH and LISTEN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT and TELL THE TRUTH (and write down a full report on paper for you files and pray about it and check with your lawyer as well) THE LORD PROTECTS HIS PEOPLE .

INTEGRITY and RIGHTEOUSNESS GIVE YOU CONFIDENCE and BOLDNESS.

Bottom Line as a born again Christian you have the Holy Spirit 'IN YOU' and God will use your training in certain situations ,this is why people like Chuck Norris (martial arts fame)and George Forman and Manny Pacquiao (both world champion boxers) are Christians and also are warriors at the same time.

I do not believe in competition combat sports so much as 'pure self-defense' in a non competitive 'learning' environment , as 'hitting other people' either in boxing or kicking does not sit right in my spirit , **BUT SELF-DEFENSE DOES sit right in my spirit.**

Pure 'self-defence' is Biblical and the 'completely pacifist' point of view is unbiblical. **Righteous Anger was displayed by Jesus himself** (remember Jesus horsewhipping the traders in the temple, and overturning the whole show) John 2:13 to 22

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%202:13-22>

Finally Just repeating the point:

Defending homes, property, and family's falls under the 'Self defence' scenario.

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ANYTHING YOU DO OR REACT TO "LISTEN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN FIRST" sometimes you don't have a lot of time ,but, the Holy Spirit is always ahead of any **EVENT** and Amos 3:7 keeps you always **AHEAD OF THE ENEMIES TACTICS** if you study and **FOCUS** on the **WORD** and are 'prayed up' all the time .

Amen ,

Rev . Dr. Graham Healy (D.D.(H.C.))