

Gleanings from the Pentateuch

"Holy War" (pt 3) Application to the Church

"Holy War"

Jesus' "Radical" Message:

- "render to Caesar"; "put away your sword"; "My kingdom is not of this world"
- Matthew 5:43-48 – "love your enemies"

The nature of holy war has been redefined with the coming/fulfillment of Jesus

"Holy War"

Application

- What it is Not
 - holy war today does not involve physical warfare, conflict or punishments enacted by Christians
 - no form of warfare today is an application, direct or indirect, of Old Testament holy war
 - "just war" theory is not derived from or related to Old Testament holy war

"Holy War"

Application

- *Holy war is fought by disciples of Christ on the spiritual level with spiritual weapons against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places*

"Holy War"

Application

1. Conquering through the Gospel
 - idolatrous enemies are transformed to worshipers of the living God through faith in Christ
 - 2 Corinthians 10:3-5
 - The gospel is a divinely powerful "weapon"
 - The battle is in the arena of ideas/thoughts

"Holy War"

Application

2. Defending against Satan's schemes
 - *Ephesians 6:10-20*
 - Our battle is ultimately against the spiritual forces of darkness
 - Our defensive "armor" is the gospel; our offensive weapon is the Word of God

“Holy War”

Implication

We engage in holy war today by...

- actively confronting our culture and unbelievers with the gospel, and
- we avoid contaminating influence by putting on the armor of God