

## Christianity and Military Service

As Christians who are committing part of our life to military service and possibly to war, how do we reconcile the Scriptures with these commands to love our enemies and do good to those who persecute us? Is the Bible in conflict with the profession of arms?

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*You shall not murder. (Exodus 20:13)*

*Then the Lord said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have all the people give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the people will go up, every man straight in." ...They devoted the city to the Lord and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it—men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys. (Joshua 6:2-5, 21)*

*This is what the Lord Almighty says: "I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt. Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy everything that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys." (1 Samuel 15:2-3)*

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. (Matthew 5:9)*

***But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. (Matt 5:44-45a)***

*If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. (Romans 12:18)*

*Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay." (Luke 3:14)*

*Each one should remain in the situation which he was in when God called him. Brothers, each man, as responsible to God, should remain in the situation God called him to. (1 Corinthians 7:20 ,24)*

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1. What is murder?
  2. Does being in the military mean we aren't peacemakers?
  3. What should be our highest goal in the military profession?
  4. How can I love my enemies as a Christian and military officer?
  5. Why didn't John command the Roman soldiers to get out of the military?
  6. What does it mean to remain in the situation where God called us?
  7. How can we explain and understand God's destruction of Jericho and the Amalekites?
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**MEMORIZE: Matthew 5:44-45a**

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