

WORDS ARE NOT VIOLENCE

INTRODUCTION

A. Proverbs 18:21; John 6:63; Revelation 2:16

Words do have the power of life and death, but that life is spiritual and that death is spiritual.

B. Genesis 9:6; Romans 12:17-13:4

The death penalty is not for those who use words we find offensive, but for those who shed man's blood. It is reserved to governing authorities to carry out that sentence.

I. EVIL PEOPLE ANSWER WORDS WITH VIOLENCE

A. Matthew 26:57-68

Because Jesus spoke words that offended people, those people had Him crucified.

B. Acts 6:10; 7:51-60

Because Stephen spoke words that offended people, those people stoned him to death.

C. Acts 9:18-30

Because Paul spoke words that offended people, those people plotted his murder – twice in this passage alone.

D. Acts 22:19-24; 23:6-10, 26-27

Again, because Paul spoke words that offended people, those people tried to kill him – twice in this passage, as well.

II. VIRTUOUS PEOPLE EXERCISE SELF-CONTROL

A. Galatians 5:19-23

Whereas works of the flesh include hatred, contention, jealousy, outbursts of wrath, dissensions, and the like, the fruit of the Spirit includes self-control.

B. 1st Peter 2:18-24; 3:8-12

The people of God are able to endure undeserved suffering, even beatings. We can experience reviling without reviling in return because Jesus set the example in this regard.

C. Matthew 5:38-39

Since Christians know to not even strike back at those who would strike us physically, we know not to respond to words with force.

III. WISE PEOPLE EXCHANGE WORDS

A. Acts 18:27-28

Christians refute error using Scripture!

B. Ephesians 6:10-17

Christians are armed **spiritually**. Our **sword** is the **word** of God!

C. 2nd Corinthians 10:3-5

We do not engage in physical fights, but cast down **arguments** and captivate **thoughts**!

CONCLUSION

A. Acts 11:13-14

Words have the power to save!

B. Acts 2:40-42

Let us rely on words to urge those who are against Christ to receive His salvation.