

GUN VIOLENCE

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Today we face ongoing Gun Violence in our communities Nationwide. It seems like there are more incidents of gun related casualties and deaths than ever before. I will say that there are more opportunities to distribute these reports, and at a much faster speed, thanks to social media. There are also more guns available for sale and in circulation within our communities. So, we can be bombarded on any given day with reports of Gun Violence. Unfortunately, these cruel acts are the result of people who take matters into their own hands, make up their own rules or totally disregard the law and the value of human life. Unfortunately, violence and murder is how some people elect to handle their differences, biased and dislikes.

In “the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave” there appears to be a great mental bondage with chains linked to an ancestry that resolved life’s matters by their own rules. Our nation has a brutal history of guns, violence, even to the point of massacres and school mass-shootings.

On July 4, 2023, America will be 247 years old. I would say that there has been more than enough time to correct our social ills and rectify gun violence. Somewhere along the path of our Nation’s true history (much of which is not recorded for its inhumanities, hatreds and graphic detailed readings) we have elected to hold firm to the preference of guns. There are obviously enough show of hands to oppose laws that suggest gun control. There are citizens among us that can only find mental peace when they have enough guns and ammunition, just in case. **Just in case...what?**

It looks like a lot of gun owners are living among us in fear. They are obsessed with the vision of being taken by surprise and not wanting to die. So, there are those among us who live to kill (the young and old alike). The beat goes on, the laws are disregarded and communities are somewhat desensitized if not, in some twisted way, entertained by the madness. Youth do not manufacture guns or own gun shops. Adults somewhere and somehow are contributing to juvenile delinquency and Gun Violence.

Reaping is inevitable without repentance. What goes around comes around...now or later (Galatians 6:7-8). Are the seeds that we have sown going to produce a fruit that we ourselves are not willing to ingest? Will our fruit be rotten at the core?

Unfortunately, we are not living in a God-fearing society. The road is wide that is travelled by many (Matthew 7:13). Prayer has been taken out of our schools since 1962. It was once a powerful and well respected classroom exercise that started the school day in a

positive direction. There was a time of less Gun Violence among our youth. Where have we failed them?

We have, over the years, seen parents and adults in leadership positions, be forced to step aside to leave our precious children to make adult decisions for themselves and to work out their problems. Some laws defeat wise parenting, authorities and the betterment for our youth. Sadly, we have gone too far. Children without boundaries, rules, positive examples, discipline and consequences...will simply self-destruct.

Our educational systems fight an uphill battle when the best interest of the students and teachers are disregarded. At the end of the day, we have lost good teachers and many students are under-served. It is not the children's fault...adults are guilty of failure to properly guide and correct and establish laws that is for the betterment of all families. Will our children look like us at the end of things...and if so, will it be a pretty picture? We must protect our children...they are our future. We are to train them in the way they should go and when they are old they will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6)

May we be reminded that there is nothing new under the sun, as declared by the wisest man to ever live on the earth...King Solomon (1 Kings 4:29-34). There has been violence and murder since Cain and Abel, sons of the same mother, Eve (Genesis 4). What pain, grief and sorrow our first parents (Adam & Eve) must have suffered. Surely, our first parents must have asked where did they go wrong. The blood of their youngest son (Abel) cried out to God (Genesis 4:10).

God declares that vengeance is His and He will repay (Romans 12:19-21). The bottom line, Cain suffered the judgment of God (Genesis 4:9-15), for the crime he committed. Can we all learn from this truth? God did not look away then and He will not look away now. To take the life of another is a serious matter in the eyes of God.

There is a better way. Simply toss your guns (to eliminate the temptation and accessibility). Those who are die-hards and insist on keeping gun(s) must be responsible and secure them within your home. Please keep them out of the reach of children and teens.

We have to acknowledge our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us of our sins and cleanse us from every wrongdoing (1 John 1:9). We must release our fears and live by faith in God...through His Son. JESUS CHRIST IS THE WAY (Matthew 11:28-30).

We are a leader of Nations, and we must protect our children who live what they see displayed by adults. May we become a better people united together in ***this one Nation under GOD...with liberty and justice for all.***