



# Middleburg Memos

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\_\_\_\_\_ and violent \_\_\_\_\_ have marked the human experience ever since \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ were cast out of \_\_\_\_\_. Historians estimate that \_\_\_\_\_ has been the nearly constant \_\_\_\_\_ of humanity.

Even as Christians seek \_\_\_\_\_, we are to do so on principles of \_\_\_\_\_. This significant \_\_\_\_\_ means that \_\_\_\_\_ is not to be sought at any \_\_\_\_\_—that righteousness must not be \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of \_\_\_\_\_.

The experience of Christians through the centuries demonstrates the \_\_\_\_\_ of this task and the \_\_\_\_\_ of understanding how we are to seek peace.

Some Christians have adopted \_\_\_\_\_—a total \_\_\_\_\_ of all \_\_\_\_\_. The central problem with \_\_\_\_\_, a minority position in Christian history, is the implication that all uses of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are morally \_\_\_\_\_ and that Christians must renounce all uses of \_\_\_\_\_, even to \_\_\_\_\_ others. In effect, a \_\_\_\_\_ believes that war or armed conflict of any kind is the \_\_\_\_\_ possible \_\_\_\_\_.

At the other extreme, Christians must not \_\_\_\_\_ or glory in \_\_\_\_\_. In fact, Christians cannot wage with \_\_\_\_\_ weapons the most \_\_\_\_\_ we are called to fight. (Look at \_\_\_\_\_.)

Most Christians have adopted some form of Christian \_\_\_\_\_—a reluctant but \_\_\_\_\_ recognition that armed conflict may sometimes be \_\_\_\_\_ and may even be morally \_\_\_\_\_ to other options.

In general, this understanding takes the form of what theologians and philosophers call the \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_. Principles of this theory seek to define war in such a way that armed conflict would be \_\_\_\_\_ and peace would more generally \_\_\_\_\_—that is, a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ peace.

Several criteria must be satisfied for proponents of \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_. They include, but are not limited to...

1. The effort must have a just \_\_\_\_\_ (the use of force is therefore \_\_\_\_\_ rather than \_\_\_\_\_).
2. Force must be employed with a just \_\_\_\_\_ to secure a fair, lasting \_\_\_\_\_ for all \_\_\_\_\_.
3. War must be understood as a \_\_\_\_\_ after all other legitimate means of settling conflict have been \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ of the war must be limited to what is \_\_\_\_\_ to establish peace.
5. The use of force must be approved by \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Only \_\_\_\_\_ means should be used and \_\_\_\_\_ must be protected whenever possible.
7. There must be a reasonable chance of \_\_\_\_\_ and a realistic hope that the conflict will lead to a \_\_\_\_\_, lasting peace.

Christians understand that war is the result of human \_\_\_\_\_. Thus, war is another reminder of why \_\_\_\_\_ and why true and permanent \_\_\_\_\_ can only come when Jesus Christ returns and subjects all \_\_\_\_\_ to His \_\_\_\_\_. Until then, Christians are to be agents for peace—\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ peace.

The ultimate achievement of peace will not come by an international conference or a peace treaty but by the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ. (Remember \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.)

Until Christ comes, we will still have war. But Christians must work and contend for \_\_\_\_\_. We must pray for the reign of the \_\_\_\_\_ until He comes.

Biblical truths to consider...

1. We should seek to live at peace with everyone and not seek vengeance. (\_\_\_\_\_)
2. We are called to be peacemakers. (\_\_\_\_\_)
3. We are to pray for our enemies and love them. (\_\_\_\_\_)
4. Quarrels and fights come from evil desires within us. (\_\_\_\_\_)
5. Those who fight with the sword (unjustly) will perish by the sword. (\_\_\_\_\_)

Cross-References: *Isaiah 2:4; Matthew 5:9,38-48; 6:33; 26:52; Luke 22:36,38; Romans 12:18-19; 13:1-7; 14:19; Hebrews 12:14; James 4:1-2.*