

**WHEN PROTESTS TURN VIOLENT
EPHESIANS 4:26 / 9-27-20 / SUN**

I. FIRST, ARE PEACEFUL PROTESTS EVER JUSTIFIED?

- A. Protests aren't just justified, they are one of our rights found in the Constitution.
- B. The Civil Rights Movement of the 60's was fashioned after the non-violent protests led by the late Martin Luther King, Jr.
- C. Last year, Oklahoma schoolteachers gathered several days at our state capital in peaceful protests.
- D. The Bible calls Christians to stand against the oppression of others without spelling out how to do this, but neither does it prohibit peaceful protests—Prov. 21:13 and 31:9.
- E. The leaders of our Southern Baptist Convention weighed in on a Christian's duty following the May 25 death of George Floyd with the following statement. (Attached).
- F. So should Christians join morally lawful peaceful protests to protect the rights of others? Our Constitution, History and even the Bible seems to give permission to do so. That question remains with our own personal decision to join or not to join.

II. SECOND, ARE VIOLENT PROTESTS EVER JUSTIFIED?

- A. A few historians think that on occasion, violent protests have been productive.
- B. Other historians believe that violent protests have for the most part been counterproductive in the long run.
- C. Jesus does advise us in his Sermon on the Mount to turn the other cheek in response to violence—**Matthew 5:38-39**.
- D. Certainly looting is covered by the Eighth of the Ten Commandments: "**You shall not steal**" (Exodus 20:15).
- E. Anger is another issue--Ephesians 4:26.
- F. Did Jesus lose his temper and commit an act of violence when he overthrew the money changers in the Temple?—**John 2:13-15**.
 - 1. No doubt that Jesus was angry, but did he become violent and in the process sin?
 - 2. It never says Jesus used the whip on either the people or the animals.
 - 3. It says Jesus overturned the tables of the money changers, but it doesn't say he destroyed or damaged the tables in any way.