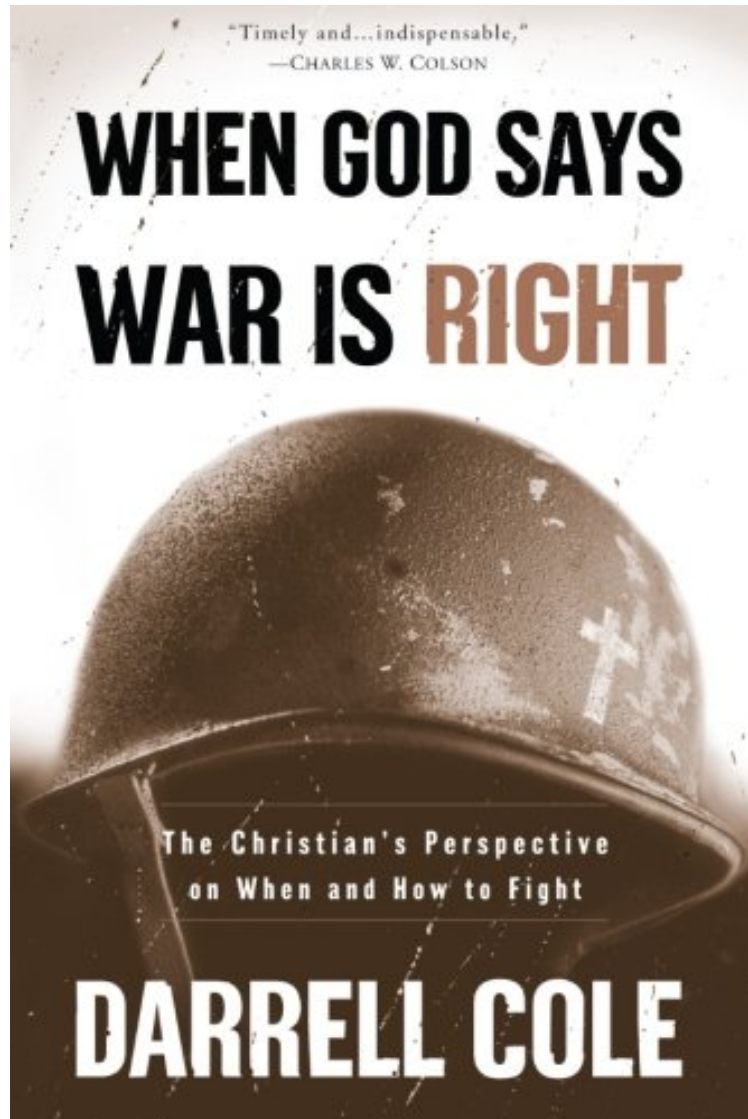


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When God Says War Is Right: The Christians Perspective on When and How to Fight

Darrell Cole

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Darrell Cole : When God Says War Is Right: The Christians Perspective on When and How to Fight before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised When God Says War Is Right: The Christians Perspective on When and How to Fight:

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following review helpful. Waring with war. By Gregory King The author balanced well, both secular sources and holy script to bring about his position. While I agree with him almost to the letter, I hold and maintain that we are fighting a different kind of war. One in which the Just war doctrine may not have the strength to fulfill. Even God commanded the Israelites to kill all on one occasion. This places the responsibility squarely on the soldiers of radical Islam and their quiet supporters. Are we there yet? To "kill them all"? I can't make that call. 4 of 7 people found the following review helpful. "Christian Based" but certainly not the Christian Perspective By J.N. First I must say that Professor Cole has written this book in a way that is available to almost any reader concerning flow of thought and overall structure. I agree with a prior reviewer that it is short on overall content but has enough material to make his point. The major problem with this book claiming to be The Christian Perspective is that there is so little scripture used in defending the just war theory perspective that one must ask if Professor Cole believes that just war theory is defensible biblically. Other than several scriptures trying to show that God is described in the OT as a warrior on one page there is very little scripture elsewhere in the book. This sort of treatment certainly wouldn't stand up in a debate with a scripturally based pacifist (and there are plenty). I do, however, appreciate that Professor Cole approaches the subject from a conservative Christian perspective. Another major problem I had while reading this book is the use of fallacies in making arguments like the repeated use of John the Baptist's instructions to soldiers to treat people justly instead of telling them to stop soldiering, therefore God must support Christians in the military. And that we couldn't possibly imagine John telling prostitutes to prostitute more righteously. These are arguments from silence. The argument is made over and over that Jesus never told people to stop owning slaves, yet it is obvious for any Christian that Jesus was changing social order slowly. Though if we used Professor Cole's reasoning then we should still have slaves today. I also find the choice of historic Christians weak in making the argument that historic Christianity has supported just war theory. Ambrose was appointed as bishop for political reasons (he wasn't even a priest). Aquinas as Catholic as can be during a time when the Church was controlled politically, and although Calvin was the top theologian of his time he is well known for being the deciding voice in the death of a heretic. Professor Cole also makes several inflammatory statements like, "When we fail to use force to protect others, we do harm to the image of God we fail to act like God when we refuse to use force in a just cause." As if the only way to protect someone is to use violence instead of place ourselves in the path of the aggressor to protect the victims (like Jesus did). Somehow we have the divine authority to use violence against the image bearers of God. And, "Failure for a X to support his nation who has met the 5 criteria and declared war would be a failure to love and failure to please God. " Really? I can't please God unless I'm a good American? When was the last time that America fought a war not based on economic interest (including WWI and WWII)? Overall, without a solid scriptural base (or at least an attempt) for the argument of just war theory, how can one really say it is The Christian Perspective?

Across the centuries, how have Christians who follow the Prince of Peace responded to the recurring reality of war? And what guidance do they offer for believers today in the midst of global conflict? In *When God Says War Is Right*, Dr. Darrell Cole offers thorough and highly readable answers. His expert examination focuses on these topics: Relating the character of God with the use of force Determining when and how Christians ought to fight Understanding why Christian virtues are vital when using force Using nuclear weapons for deterrence Learning lessons from World War II, Vietnam, and the 1991 Gulf War Responding to today's war against terrorism Dr. Cole focuses on Romans 13, where Paul commands us to do what is right (or good or noble) in regard to our governing authorities, who have legitimate war-making authority. In the case of war, what is right for the Christian? This book answers that essential question. In today's war-stricken world, Dr. Cole provides timely, trustworthy, and vitally needed guidance for Christians.

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