***Arguments against Christian Participation in War***

1. Human life is sacred – Humans are created in the image of God; to deface this image is wrong (Gen. 9:6). Since God is the only One who creates life, He is the only One who can take it.

2. Christians are specifically called to carry out the will of God on earth:

-The church is to show and execute God’s plan – Eph. 1:23, 3:10

-Christians are called to the ministry of reconciliation – II Cor. 5:18

-Christians are to share the gospel of Christ with the world – Mt. 28:19

-Christians are to “overcome evil with good” Rom. 12:21

-Christians are to love all men (and women) – Mt. 5:44

-Christians are to serve all people in humility – Mt. 20:26

-Christians are to accept suffering rather than do wrong – I Pet 2:21

3. God loves all people equally – God has no favorite groups or nations. No nation can claim God’s exclusive favor and direction. (Col. 3:11; Acts 10:34)

4. God is omnipotent and good – Ultimately, God is in control of all things. Our obedience to God is based on our trust in Him.

5. War brings death and suffering to innocent people – While government may have authority to execute a convicted criminal, it does not have authority to pronounce death on an entire country of people (even an entire group of men who happen to be wearing uniforms)—the individuals who make up these groups (and are targeted in war) have never been proven guilty of a crime worthy of death. War also usually destroys a country’s substructure, economy, and government and generally incites more hatred and bitterness.

6. Disciples of Jesus Christ follow in His steps

Secondarily:

-Giving government the authority to do war forces one to accept the horrors of

governments throughout history (Hitler, Stalin, Chavez, etc.)

-War dehumanizes both the fighter and the one fought against

-War is a waste of money and resources

**“Don’t be afraid. My love is stronger.**

**My love is stronger than your fear.**

**Don’t be afraid. My love is stronger,**

**And I have promised, promised to be always near.”**