

# *A neglected perspective of gun control and mental health.*

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I would like to challenge people to consider an ignored perspective on gun control and mental health which has many serious points that should be addressed. As we have witnessed, guns are not the only things that are used to harm and kill people. Automobiles, planes, bombs, knives... are also used to harm and kill people. The deeper issue is not so much these things, but their *misuse* by people with faulty thinking. I do not believe that anyone can honestly deny the negative influences on mental health. An individual's "world view" - perspective of what everything and everyone are and how they inter-relate – is the primary influence on how they tend to think and act. Please note the extreme contrasts in the ways of thinking in the table below. Please bear with me as I try to present to you the case that the spiritual "component" is not some mystical accessory to life, but something intended to be a relationship with God and *the* extremely practical and vitally important governing guide in mental health and behavior.

<b>Proof Texts</b>	<b>Guiding Principles</b>	<b>Commonly Accepted Antitheses</b>
Gen 1:27 And God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.	God created humans in His likeness as spiritual beings with a will, to fellowship with Him and reflect/share His character.	Humans are high level animals that somehow evolved through many random mutations. Human origin has no purpose or intrinsic value.
Rom 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:	Humans "fell" by sinning - exercising their will apart from, contrary to God's perfect, holy, and righteous nature / will. Humanity acquired the sinful nature and the consequences of spiritual and physical death, and everlasting punishment.	There are no absolutes – there is no right or wrong. You live a while and die – there is nothing more. There is no heaven or hell.
Mat 15:18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: Rom 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. 13 Their throat <i>is</i> an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps <i>is</i> under their lips: 14 Whose mouth <i>is</i> full of cursing and bitterness: 15 Their feet <i>are</i> swift to shed blood: 16 Destruction and misery <i>are</i> in their ways: 17 And the way of peace have they not known: 18 There is no fear of God before their eyes. 19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law <i>is</i> the knowledge of sin.	Human nature is corrupted – bad (not good). Humans are incapable of measuring up to God's standards. Humans do wrong toward God and others. Evil is prevalent on earth because most humans reject God, His Redemption, and His guidance.	Humans are good – their circumstances / environments are bad. Humans can improve themselves by their own intellect and will. Humans can please God. Humans / majorities / governments determine what is good and bad. People only do bad things because of their circumstances.

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<p>Rom 3:21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; 22 Even the righteousness of God <i>which is</i> by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: 23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25 Whom God hath set forth <i>to be</i> a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26 To declare, <i>I say</i>, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. 27 Where <i>is</i> boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. 28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.</p>	<p>God provided a Savior for mankind to have everlasting life, restored fellowship with Him, and to treat others properly. God applies this redemption to <i>only</i> those who have faith (belief and trust) in Him and His work alone. Humans need God to justify them and transform their thinking and behavior.</p>	<p>Most people are good. Everyone goes to heaven. Humans do not need God – just each other’s co-operation. The end justifies the means.</p>
<p>Mat 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second <i>is</i> like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Phi 2:3 <i>Let</i> nothing <i>be done</i> through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. 4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Rom 15:1 We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2 Let every one of us please <i>his</i> neighbour for <i>his</i> good to edification.</p>	<p>Esteem God above all others, and others above yourself. Care for others like you are caring for yourself. Look out for others’ well being more than your own. Help those who are weak. Do good pleasing things for others to help build their spiritual maturity and character.</p>	<p>Self- esteem is the most important. Look out for #1! You cannot love others if you do not love yourself first. Look out for number one!</p>
<p>Jam 1:19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: 20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.</p>	<p>Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to vengeance.</p>	<p>Don’t hold back – let them have it!</p>
<p>Pro 24:17 Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth: 18 Lest the LORD see <i>it</i>, and it displease him, and he turn away his wrath from him.</p>	<p>Do not rejoice when others are punished.</p>	<p>Take satisfaction in others getting what they deserve.</p>
<p>Pro 16:18 Pride <i>goeth</i> before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.</p>	<p>Be humble, not proud so as to fall in pride.</p>	<p>I would never do that.</p>
<p>Rom 2:1 Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.</p>	<p>Do not “point your finger” at others in hypocrisy.</p>	<p>Look what they did! I would never do anything like that!</p>
<p>Eph 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.</p>	<p>Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving like God.</p>	<p>I cannot forgive them for what they did.</p>

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<p>Mat 18:21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? 22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.</p>	<p>Do not put a limit on forgiving someone.</p>	<p>If you cross certain lines, you can never be forgiven or come back.  <b>THAT'S IT!</b>  <b>I'VE HAD IT!</b>  <b>NO MORE!</b>  <b>I'M DONE WITH YOU!</b></p>
<p>Luk 6:27 But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, 28 Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.  29 And unto him that smiteth thee on the <i>one</i> cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not <i>to take thy</i> coat also. 30 Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask <i>them</i> not again.  31 And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. 32 For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. 33 And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same.  34 And if ye lend <i>to them</i> of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again.  35 But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and <i>to</i> the evil.  36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. 37 Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: 38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.  1Pe 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: 22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:  23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed <i>himself</i> to him that judgeth righteously: 24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. 25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.  1Pe 3:9 Not rendering evil for evil, or</p>	<p>Do not retaliate, but to do good when wronged and pray for them.  Do not even threaten when wronged.  Be merciful like God.  Be forgiving.</p>	<p>Give them a taste of their own medicine.  Give them what they deserve.  I don't have to take this!</p>

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<p>railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.</p>		
<p>Mat 5:43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. 44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? 47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more <i>than others</i>? do not even the publicans so? 48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.</p> <p>Mat 7:12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.</p> <p>Rom 12:17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. 18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but <i>rather</i> give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance <i>is</i> mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. 20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. 21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.</p> <p>1Ti 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, <i>and</i> giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and <i>for</i> all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 3 For this <i>is</i> good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;</p>	<p>Treat others like you want to be treated. Pray for others. Live at peace with others as much as is possible.</p>	<p>Give them a taste of their own medicine!</p>
<p>Mat 7:3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? 4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam <i>is</i> in thine own eye? 5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.</p>	<p>Correct your own faults (often bigger), before you try to correct others faults.</p>	<p>You're evil. You've got problems! You need to get a life! I'm glad I'm not like you! I wouldn't do that!</p>

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<p>Mat 5:23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;</p> <p>24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.</p>	<p>When you have offended someone, go to them and try to restore the relationship.</p>	<p>I don't care what they think. If they don't like it, they can just get over it.</p>
<p>Mat 18:15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.</p>	<p>Seek <i>reconciliation</i> in confronting others when they have offended you.</p>	<p>Reject and despise those who offend you. It is okay to hate some people.</p>
<p>Gal 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.</p>	<p>Do not give up or quit!</p>	<p>I cannot take it anymore!</p>
<p>Col 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.</p>	<p>Do not trust in the "wisdom" and philosophies of mankind, but God's Word.</p>	<p>Mankind's philosophy, psychology, and medication can answer, fix, and resolve all of mankind's problems.</p>
<p>2Co 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;</p>	<p>Take control of every thought and deal with it according to God's Word.</p>	<p>Open your mind and thoughts to find out where they will take you. Immorality, murder, and violence in books, movies, music, video games... is art to amuse, entertain, and provide an outlet for our anger, frustrations, passions...</p>
<p>Phi 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things <i>are</i> honest, whatsoever things <i>are</i> just, whatsoever things <i>are</i> pure, whatsoever things <i>are</i> lovely, whatsoever things <i>are</i> of good report; if <i>there be</i> any virtue, and if <i>there be</i> any praise, think on these things.</p>	<p>Think about good things.</p>	<p>It does not matter what you think about. It is only entertainment – I don't do those things.</p>
<p>Exo 20:13 Thou shalt not kill.</p>	<p>God prohibits murder.</p>	<p>I can do whatever I want!</p>
<p>Gen 9:6 Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.</p> <p>1Pe 2:13 Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;</p> <p>14 Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. 15 For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: 16 As free, and not using <i>your</i> liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. 17 Honour all <i>men</i>. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.</p> <p>Rom 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. 2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: 4 For he is the</p>	<p>Obey government authority.</p> <p>One of God's purposes for government is to punish murderers by ending the murderer's life because humans are made in God's image.</p> <p>God's punishment for evil is eternal.</p>	<p>Fight the system!</p> <p>You can do whatever you want as long as you don't get caught.</p>

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<p>minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to <i>execute</i> wrath upon him that doeth evil.</p> <p>Gal 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are <i>these</i>; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told <i>you</i> in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.</p>		

In conclusion, the solution that I recommend is not any random religion or even modern, popular “Christianity”. But one of genuine faith in Christ and His work alone on our behalf to reconcile us to God. Whereby He justifies us and transforms our thinking and our behavior. Furthermore, He instructs us to actively participate in transforming our thinking and behavior through studying the Bible, evaluating and correcting our thinking according to His Word, and obeying - living out the commands and principles that He has given to us in His Word – the Bible.