



12 June 2026

# VIOLENCE

After creation when people began to multiply, Genesis chapter 6 tells us,

“The LORD saw that the wickedness of mankind was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil continually” (verse 5).

Also, “the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence” (verse 11).



So it was. So it is.

One writer tells us

“Like sticks of dynamite taped together with a short fuse, our times are really volatile. Anger is ready to explode into physical violence at the slightest provocation. The entire globe seems brimming with hair-trigger hostility, ready to flare into full-scale disaster.”

How are we to respond to violence, to evil? To borrow the familiar phrase, “How should we then live?”

First, there are things to know and rely on. Think of just two.

The Bible tells us God is in control of all things at all times. He allows evil, but it is not outside of His control as it is outside of our control. The Bible tells us,

- “our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.” (Psalm 115:3).
- “Many plans are in a person’s heart, but the advice of the Lord will stand” (Proverbs 19:21).
- “The Lord has made everything for its own purpose, even the wicked for the day of evil.”  
(Proverbs 16:4)

As well, the Bible tells us God will judge all evil. As Solomon summed up the book of Ecclesiastes he wrote, “God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil” (12:14).

Second, we should, we must live positively as God calls us to live, and not be sucked into either despair or retaliation. We can explore this in depth at another time, but just three quick points for starters.

- God gives us His peace. Jesus told us, “Peace I leave you, My peace I give you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, nor fearful” (John 14:27). God calls us to allow Christ’s peace to rule in our hearts. Paul wrote to the church at Colossae, “Let the peace of Christ, to which you were indeed called in one body, rule in your hearts; and be thankful” (3:15). We do that as we stay in touch with Him, follow Him.
- God calls us to be peacemakers. You and I cannot broker peace between nations, but we are to be peacemakers where we are—in our relationships, church and community. Jesus told us, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God” (Matthew 5:9). Paul wrote in Romans chapter 12, “If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all people” (18). As well, the church is directed to be “diligent to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3).
- God calls us to be light in the darkness of this world. Remember what Jesus told us, “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Your light must shine before people in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:14-16).

When you look at the violence in the world, in your world, remember what Jesus has told us, “These things [His teaching, truth] I have spoken to you so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).

*Pastor Lyle*