

Letters to Young People - 'Violence'

by [Gary Young](#) on Friday, November 5, 2010 at 9:18am

I don't mind a good video game. Some I like to play, some I like to just watch others play. A great many of these games, you have probably noticed, are pretty violent. To take one genre, the Zombie Shooter, the backstory is not really necessary – all you do is blaze away at the hordes of the undead with a series of conveniently placed and increasingly improbable weapons (I mean when did YOU last see a flamethrower lying around?), while the zombies want to eat your brains. Pretty simple stuff.

It's hardly a view that is confined to video games, either – much of the output of the movie industry depicts violence as a catch all solution for most issues, and the 'hero' of the story is frequently someone who is capable of inflicting violence extremely effectively.

However, I'd like to think that both you and I can tell the difference between these types of movies and games and real life. It might be nice to think that we can address all of life's issues by belting them on the head with a big stick, but I think we are all aware that real life isn't a zombie shooter. Violence in particular, rather than solving our problems, will actually compound them. While it's tempting to sometimes think that our life might be a like a movie one day, this is one area where we need to be all too aware of the huge disconnect between fantasy and reality!

Violence is, sadly, all too often resorted to in real life as a 'solution'. This is something that it seems young men are particularly prone to, but it is far from confined to them. You only have to scan the newspapers to see reports of bashing victims, injuries and even deaths which have arisen from people resorting to violence. It takes place in the street because of drunkenness, aggression and downright thuggery. It takes place in homes because of domestic conflict, drug and alcohol use, frustration or whatever. Those who have committed these acts of violence often try to justify them by various means: they use being drunk as an excuse, they claim provocation on the part of the victim, they seem to think that their violence was, in some sense at least, a valid response to the situation they were in.

Well is it? Is there a reasonable situation where you might strike a passer by on the street? Is there an acceptable circumstance where a man might bash his wife or brutalize his children? Is it understandable when someone punches someone in the face because he was angry at him? Can a young man hit his girlfriend because they were having a fight? No. He can't Absolutely not. There is NO circumstance where it is reasonable to resort to violence in these ways!

Jesus made his position on this sort of thing quite clear:

Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again your sword into its place: for all those that take the sword shall perish with the sword (Matthew 26: 52).

I'm not talking about self defence here, nor indeed am I talking about defending someone else AGAINST violence – both of those are quite different situations. What I'm talking about here is the resort to violence – where someone is angry, drunk, frustrated, all of the above, whatever – and they TURN to violence as an imagined solution to their problems. It never is.

Violence is the solution of the thug and the coward. If you resort to violence all you are saying about yourself is that you don't really have anything to back up your argument, you can't convince someone that you are right so you hit them. That's pathetic. Sometimes people try to get their way by intimidation, by threatening violence either explicitly or implicitly. That, too, is pathetic. Violence is the solution of the morally and intellectually bankrupt.

Guys, is that the sort of person you want to be? God has given you physical strength to be sure, but He has given it to you to protect and provide for those that you love, not to hurt them! Girls, don't even think about getting into a relationship with someone who would be violent with you, even who would threaten to use it on you. You deserve better than that, and even if he tries to blame it on you (which he probably will), don't buy it. The one who resorts to violence is the one who caused it, end of story. If you are in such a relationship, get out of it. If he truly cares about you, he will deal with his violence issues – and by 'deal with', I mean 'get rid of'. If he truly cares about you, he won't hit you. Ever.

Violence is the argument of cowards and the resort of fools. It has no place in your life, either as perpetrator or victim. If it's there, get rid of it. If it's not, then make sure you keep it that way.