

SUNDAY TO SATURDAY

CURATED TOPICS FOR A DISILLUSIONED CHURCH

GUNS/GUN VIOLENCE / Guided learning path: Media preference

A LITURGICAL PRAYER

In the face of fear, be our Protector and Provider. Give us a strong sense of ultimate security in you, God. Teach our hearts to desire your kingdom above any earthly security.

- Prayer from *The Liturgy of Politics*,
Kaitlyn Schiess



Sunday to Saturday is a Christian collaborative who have a passion for curating topics for a disillusioned church.

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START HERE: Whether you prefer to watch, to listen, or to read about a subject here are our recommendations for each media type. Before you begin, read our framework on page 3 to prepare your mind and heart before engaging in the topic. Scan the QDR code under the liturgical prayer to engage with this learning path online.

Like to watch?

- MOVIE: The Armor of Light** | One is a minister and one is a mother. Both are Christians. The Armor of Light chronicles the journey of pastor **Rob Schenck** and mother **Lucy McBath** from being silent about gun violence to devoting their lives to talking about gun violence within and outside of the church.
- SHOW: Middle Ground: Pro-Gun vs. Anti-Gun** | Six strangers – three that are pro-gun and three that are anti-gun – sit down fact to face and discuss a handful of questions and/or statements regarding guns.

Like to listen?

- PODCAST: Is America's Gun Culture a Blessing or a Curse?** | Host **Skye Jethani** and columnist **David French** role model what it is like to have a conversation from a shared Christian background, but disagree on specific policies. The insightful conversation touches on red flag laws, suicide and guns, the right to self-defense, and whether it is a good or bad thing to have concealed carry permits. With good faith arguments made on both sides, their conversation will make you think thoughtfully about the gun debate. Skip to 32:38 to get to the interview.
- PODCAST: Christians, Guns and the Mass Shooting Epidemic** | Journalist **Kirsten Powers** begins the podcast with a personal story about the aggressive nature of the National Rifle Association (NRA) before she and co-host **Jonathan Merritt** critique the organization for putting partisanship and profits over life. The duo aptly point out the hypocrisy in some pro-gun arguments made in bad faith such as it's not a gun problem, it's a mental health problem, and the only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun.

Like to read?

□ [ARTICLE: God and Guns](#) | One pastor advocates for gun reform, the other trains and arms his congregation. Both had mass shootings take place at their churches. In this well-researched article, Kimberly Winston digs into the relationship between guns and Christians and what Christians, both armed and unarmed, are doing to prevent gun violence.

□ [ARTICLE: Are We Attempting to Serve Two Masters, Jesus and Gun Rights?](#) | In an excerpt from her book *When Thoughts and Prayers Aren't Enough* (which we highly recommend), **Taylor Schumann** writes about the callous comments many Christians made when she started to talk about gun reform. She ultimately asks if some Christians are trying to serve two masters.

Like a good book?

□ [BOOK: Collateral Damage](#) | Pastor **James Atwood**, who passed away in 2020, called gun violence the most important theological issue for the American church. He is rooted in the belief that all humans are created in the image of God and from Mark 12:28-34 where Jesus says the most important commandment is to love God and love your neighbor. Atwood says you cannot love God and not love your neighbor, they are fundamentally connected. *Collateral Damage* is a prophetic call for the church to get involved and not remain silent when 40,000 fellow image bearers are being killed each year while hundreds of thousands more are psychologically and emotionally damaged from the effects of gun violence.

Like a good sermon?

□ [SERMON: Biblical and Moral Reasons for People of Faith to Speak Up and Act to Stop Gun Violence](#) | In a moving sermon pastor **James Atwood** draws a straight line between how many Christians viewed slavery before the Civil War to how many Christians currently view and react to gun violence. He says many Christians say gun violence has nothing to do with ethics, it has nothing to do with morality, and nothing to do with spirituality. That gun violence is a political issue and we should just stay out of it. Atwood forcefully calls out those statements as a failure to love our neighbors and treat everyone in the Image of God. Additionally, he points out that in Mark 12 Jesus points out that to love God is to love our neighbor. We cannot love God without loving our neighbor. Atwood ends the sermon with six spiritual, moral, and ethical reasons why Christians need to speak up and act to stop gun violence.

THE SUNDAY TO SATURDAY FRAMEWORK

[Our framework](#) begins with the foundational doctrine of the Imago Dei (Gen. 1:27) - that humans are unique and created in the image of God. This doctrine of respect and dignity permeates every step of Sunday to Saturday's approach to learning about a topic.

When this doctrine is applied, it forces us into tension, which then requires nuance. This tension and nuance manifests itself in a both/and worldview as opposed to an either/or worldview. For example, you can be an advocate for the police and for police reform.

The framework consists of four stages/steps: pray, learn, pause, and engage.

These four stages are not fixed and you will move back and forth from one stage to the other throughout your life. You may stay in one stage for months or even years. At other times it may be a blend of multiple stages.

The colors of each step are specifically chosen to correspond to liturgical colors. Pray and pause are purple -- purple represents preparation. Learn and engage are green -- green represents growth. Gold represents glory.



THE STAGES

1. **PRAY:** Each topic begins with a liturgical prayer that we find useful when engaging with that particular subject. When you pray, ask God to soften your heart and sharpen your mind.

GUIDING VERSE: Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know. -- Jeremiah 33:3 (NIV)

2. **LEARN:** Knowledge is power. We have already spent hundreds of hours curating content – use our [guided learning paths](#), [five questions](#), and [learning capsules](#) as starting points on your journey.

GUIDING VERSE: Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance. -- Proverbs 1:5 (NIV)

3. **PAUSE:** It is important to stop, pray, and reflect on what you have learned. Pausing should be done after each piece of media you consume, but it is also useful to stop every few weeks or months to take a break, rest, and reflect.

GUIDING VERSE: Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him and he will make your paths straight. -- Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

4. **ENGAGE:** When you feel ready, engage with neighbors, family and friends - but do not rush into this step. Know that you are going to mess up, that doesn't mean quitting, that means adjusting and probably moving back into steps 1-3 before moving back to step 4.

GUIDING VERSE: Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. -- James 1:22-25 (NIV)