



## **“It’s the Gun’s Fault”**

**Caleb DeHart**

Passion. As Hyphens we are full of passion. Passion is actually an amazing thing. Passion helps communicate a message, it helps keep us focused, passion has the ability to be driver to the vehicle to success, change, or cultivate a movement. Passion has been a driving force on the most current issue teenagers and young adults are vocalizing and they are saying “it is the Guns Fault”! A statement that we need to be aware of when we are asked the question “Do we have a gun problem in America”? I want to offer a different look that isn’t really a new look but I feel the need to write.

As of April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018, there have been 20 school shootings according to an article on CNN’s website (<https://www.cnn.com/2018/03/02/us/school-shootings-2018-list-trnd/index.html>), these shootings have taken place in a wide variety of ways including gang violence, accidental discharges, and unfortunately mass shootings. So, the question stands, is it the guns fault? Or by some chance is it a result of the lack of morality that America once stood for that is no longer there?

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, high minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God” (2 Timothy 3:1-5). We in America are living in a failed state of morality. I hate to even admit it but our society fulfills what Isaiah warns against. They call evil good and good evil. We live in a society where it is abnormal for a teenager or young adult to grow up in a home with their mom and dad. It is a normal thing for guys to watch pornography, it is a normal thing for girls and guys to drink, smoke, and do all kinds of promiscuous things. That has been going on though for years. There has been a shift in the past 20 years on what we have allowed to stimulate our minds.

Jesus says to put on the helmet of salvation for a reason because what you feed into your mind will determine what grows in your heart. Jesus also said you will know a tree by the fruit it produces. So, the reason I bring this up, in the past 20 years movies, video games, T.V shows, and other forms of entertainment have increasingly become more and more violent, more and more promiscuous, more and more vulgar . One of the number one video games out there is a game that allows you to go around brutally killing innocent people and the worst thing about it is you get points for doing so. One of the most popular T.V shows right now is “The Walking Dead” a show that is solely based around violent murderous acts. So, my question is how can we expect these shootings to really stop if our young adults and teenagers are growing up in broken homes, being ignored by their parents and families, being abused, and bullied. How can we blame an object that in all reality is just as safe as a car or kitchen utensil? It is like the government’s solution to STD’s and teen Pregnancy is to pass out more condoms. So, what happened, teens are still getting pregnant, contracting STD’s, and their lives are being forever altered.



It is easy to blame an object rather than addressing the real issue. With this teen in Parkland Florida, I don't think investigators are asking him "why did you use an AR-15 to kill your fellow students" but rather they are asking him "What made you want to kill your fellow students". Blaming the guns is the easy solution to a much deeper problem that will actually take work and effort of politicians, teachers, police officers, parents, fellow students and most importantly the church. Our calling is to reach the hurting. Luke 4:18-19 says: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

It is our job to be aware of hurting people. The saying goes hurt people, hurt people. It is so true. If you look at an abused dog a lot of times it will be violent as a means of protecting itself. People who are hurt a lot of times will hurt other people with their words, actions and sadly violence. Why do they do this, they do it a lot of times to protect themselves. We as the church, we as Hyphen leaders have to be able to look deeper and realize first that the issues are not the thing on the surface, but it goes much deeper than that. So, my question I leave with you, Is it really the guns fault?