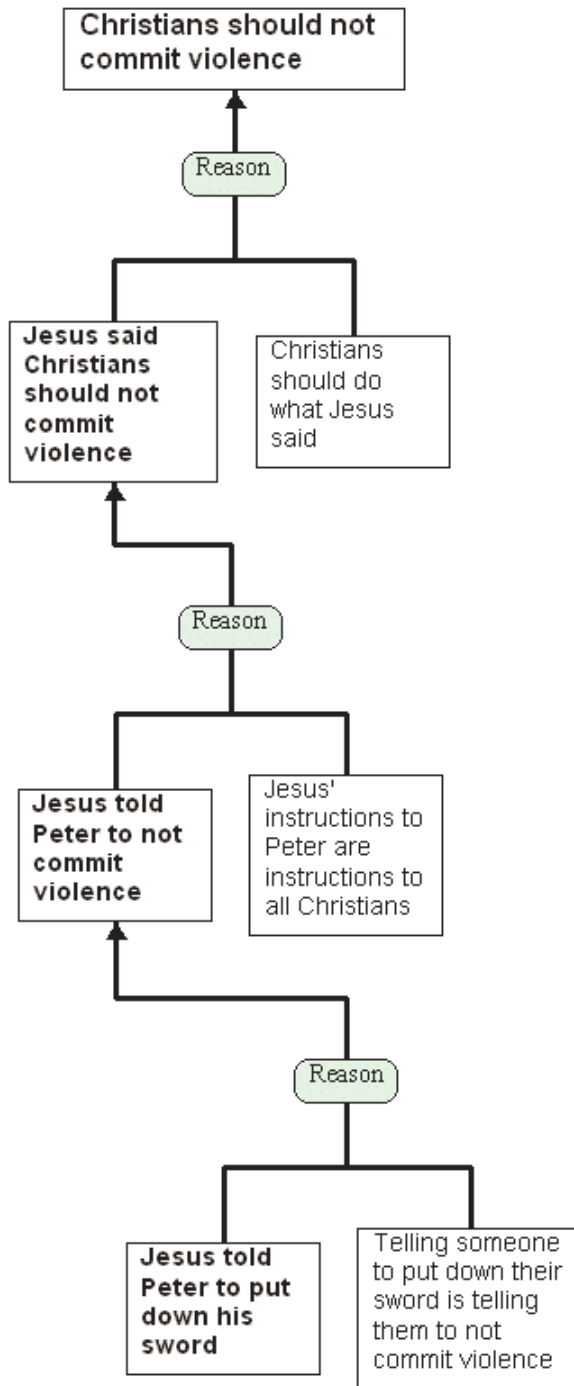


Here's a simple map of an argument that Christians should not commit violence because of what the Bible says in Matthew 26.



Note several things:

1. We have enforced the pyramid rule by adding several intermediate levels between the conclusion and the scriptural evidence. That is necessary because there are a number of assumptions that come between the two. It illustrates the several layers of interpretation that are required to get from Jesus telling Peter to put down his sword to the general claim that Jesus forbade all violence.

2. There are a number of different places where one could object.

Most likely, Christians who disagree with the conclusion would object either to:

- a) the claim that Jesus' instructions to Peter were intended for all Christians, or
- b) the claim that telling someone to put down their sword in a particular situation is the equivalent of telling people to never use the sword.

Notice how important these unstated assumptions are to the conclusion.

To support such objections, anti-pacifists might give reasons such as:

- Jesus' instructions to Peter were unique to this prophecy-fulfilling occasion
- Jesus told Peter to bring the sword
- Jesus let other soldiers wear their swords...

Referring to an often-ambiguous sacred text does not end the debate!