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ACCORDING TO SOME BRETHREN, THEY SINNED (PART 1)

By Terry M. Hightower

This past week a San Antonio 12-year-old boy came to his mother's rescue when he fatally shot a man who was beating and choking her inside the family's home. Police said Abraham Mendez shot 30-year-old Graham Bouie II after Bouie broke into the Mendez home shortly after 7 a.m. Wednesday and attacked the boy's mother, 47-year-old Rose Mendez. Police said the boy, along with his 15-year-old sister and 24-year-old brother, Roy, tried to help their mother fend off the attack but were unsuccessful. Police said no charges would be filed pending conclusion of an investigation, BUT SOME OF MY BRETHREN WOULD "FILE CHARGES"!

In Chicago, Faye Webb, 52, had never fired a gun and she was bound at wrists and ankles, but she knew that in the next room two burglars were savagely beating her husband. Mrs. Webb took a .38 caliber revolver with her hands tied in front of her, hobbled to the kitchen doorway and opened fire. The burglars were hit and both died later. Paul Webb, 55, was beaten and suffered a six-inch gash on his head from a screwdriver during the fight. SOME OF MY BRETHREN WOULD HAVE "TIED UP" MRS. WEBB'S HANDS EVEN TIGHTER!

The fleeing man had about 40 pounds on Martin Munoz, but being outweighed didn't stop the 19-year-old Explorer Scout from chasing him down and tackling him in a northeastern suburb of Los Angeles after a frantic woman told him she'd just been raped. Rickie Hubbard, 23, was placed in jail in lieu of a \$10,000 bond for investigation of rape, and sheriff's deputies credited Munoz's determination for putting him there. Hearing screams, Munoz saw a man assaulting the woman and when he ran to help, the man ran. Munoz tackled Hubbard two blocks away and held him until the police arrived. SOME OF MY BRETHREN WOULD PUT MORE THAN A "WEIGHT DIFFERENCE" ON THE EXPLORER SCOUT'S BACK!

Confronting what he called "a father's worst nightmare", Kenneth Routon struggled with the strange intruder, took away his knife (which was being held to his 9-year-old daughter's throat), and punched him out. Edward P. Kumbartzsky, 33, was unconscious for 12 hours after the incident and was in stable, but guarded condition at Western Medical Center in Santa Ana. Kenneth Routon said that he's no "hero", just a "loving father". SOME OF MY BRETHREN WOULD SAY HE WAS A "LOVING FATHER" WHO GROSSLY SINNED!

Why would otherwise right-thinking brethren "file charges" of sin against Mendez, morally "tie up" Mrs. Webb's hands, ethically "weigh down" the teenaged Scout, or accuse a truly heroic father of improper conduct? Simply this: IF THESE RESCUERS WERE CHRISTIANS THEY SINNED, IF

THEY WERE ALIEN SINNERS THEY DID NOT SIN! (Perhaps we all ought to secretly pray that the police officers in our hometown do NOT all come to the next Gospel Meeting whereupon they might all be immersed into Christ, thus leaving our town unprotected from the everyday violence running so rampant!) Just like those teaching the error of ONE LAW FOR THE ALIEN AND ANOTHER LAW FOR THE CHRISTIAN relative to Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage (Matt. 5:32; 19:9), these brethren hold (relative to such passages as Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-14; and Matt. 5:38-42) that there is ONE LAW FOR THE ALIEN AND ANOTHER LAW FOR THE CHRISTIAN relative to Civil Punishment Of Evildoers. Given this position, one cannot even call upon a Policeman for help if one knows beforehand that he or she has become a Christian for this makes one an accessory to the “dirty deed”!

A 26-year-old woman who was beaten and raped repeatedly by five men in Columbia, South Carolina, escaped after four hours and ran naked down a street seeking help, but neighbors didn't open their doors and the men caught her again. The woman was raped for two hours before she broke free again and found someone who would shelter her. This incident occurred in a middle-class neighborhood just north of the city limits, very similar to places where many of us live.

As I have asked many “pacifists” through the years, “Exactly what would or could you scripturally do in such a situation?” Would or could you do nothing (as many people did in keeping their doors shut tight!)? Would or could you call the police? What if the policemen you reach about the incident turn out to be Christians? Do you then ask them: “Are you baptized into Christ according to Galatians 3:27 or are you a ‘pagan’ whom God has authorized to punish evil-doers? If you are a heathen, then get over here with some other heathens REAL FAST!” WHAT DO YOU SAY IN THIS SUPPOSED MORAL DILEMMA? Would it be a sin for you (as a Christian) to help this lady by physically fighting her assailants in order to protect her?

To prove that these are not “trick” questions similar to asking “Have you quit beating your wife, Yes or No”? I will gladly give my own answers which can be proved by the Bible. I would open my home to this terrified woman. I would and could call the police and it does not matter whether they are Christians or not because all men are amenable to the laws of Christ (Mark 16:15; Matt. 28:19). As a preacher of the gospel, brother G.K. Wallace was once asked what he would do in a similar situation. His reply is also my reply: “Well, brethren, if I was in this kind of situation, and if there was a baseball bat handy, I'd show you what I would do.” There would be no hatred or ill-will on my part toward these depraved men, but I would do my best to stop them. Yes, I would even use my shotgun, if necessary, to thwart their evil ambitions and I would have God's approval in so doing (Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-14; Acts 23:23-24; Matt. 24:43; 1 Tim. 5:8). Given the “Sinner-Only Theory” concocted by some brethren, the last person one would want to have around in such a crisis is a true follower of Jesus the Christ! Some brethren are in the unenviable position of joining (by implication) those in gross error pertaining to MDR.