

 **TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC":**
GUN VIOLENCE:
ARE WE JUST
DOING THE OBVIOUS?



By Stephen L. Bakke  October 23, 2015

Mallard Fillmore by Bruce Tinsley



Here's what provoked me:

The screaming and yelling over the evils of gun ownership is getting me frustrated. If anyone studies the facts we know we are going down the wrong path to improve the horrific violence in this country. It's troubling that the real answer is considered "off base" for discussion and importance. But lately I've noticed a breath of fresh air in the conversation.

Here's my response:

Gun Violence: Are We Just Doing the Obvious?

Are we "missing the boat" regarding gun violence? I, a moderate conservative on gun control, agree with the following:

- Gun laws need to be enforced where they exist, and "holes" filled.
- Effective laws must be made uniform.
- Understanding the impact of mental illness is necessary.
- Gun free zones are counter-productive.

- The number of firearms isn't the problem so forget confiscation.

Those ideas and policies will help but WILL NOT bring major improvements. So what's the answer? Nestled in the scream for more regulations are simple and profound conclusions:

- Marty Rossmann writes "Don't Forget the Families" as important in developing youth (10-21).
- Star Tribune Editorial on "Parent-child bond is a key to learning."
- Don't leave character development up to the teachers – Jan Bomstad (10-22)
- Others write about cultural problems in our violent attitudes – lesser influence of fathers and organized religion.

We don't examine these other and related things because it fosters accusations of political incorrectness. The following questions deserve examination as to their impact on hatred, racism, and even gun violence:

- Have government programs institutionalized "urban poverty plantations" as a breeding ground for violence?
- Has de-emphasis on family structure led to changes in attitudes affecting violence?
- Are dysfunctional lifestyles more acceptable than in the past?
- Has a reduction in moral absolutes led to an expansion of acceptable activities?
- Has morality been redefined in our society?
- Have there been changes in the definition of life and the sanctity thereof?

To politicize this by calling for gun control – we already know that gun control is not going to stop the violence. Only a change of heart is going to do that. – Alveda King, NAACP member, Christian civil rights activist and niece of Martin Luther King, Jr.