

I'm Just A Soul Whose Intentions Are Good

I'm probably going to give away my age when I tell you I just purchased a CD by "the Animals". Most of you probably never heard of "the Animals", and that's good because you won't be able to date me. But, those of you who DO remember might also remember a song by "the Animals" titled "Don't let me be misunderstood". This song is the inspiration which got me thinking about the anti-gun, anti-CCW attitudes, culture, and misinformation that permeates a large faction of our society and what You and I can do to counter the backslide of common sense.

You have chosen to face the realities of everyday life and have decided that carrying a concealed weapon makes perfect, logical sense. I'm sure that you have found opposition to your choice to go armed, whether in the media, friends or even spouses. It probably didn't take you very long to figure out that not everyone shares your enthusiasm about self protection, nor do they appreciate the pro-active way in which you ensure the protection of yourself and family. The people who oppose your choice of self protection are not bad people. At worse, they are only guilty of fostering a belief system that pretends someone else will protect them if they get in trouble. How you handle opposition to your right to carry can make a big difference in getting some of the non-believers to step over to our side of reality. You do not need a script or a coach to answer objections to your fundamental beliefs – look them in the eye and speak from the heart.

First, never let an objection go unanswered whether it's PC or not. I know it is so easy to look down and shake your head. You must understand that people who raise objections to guns or conceal carry rights think they are in the thought-majority and their views are prevalent primarily because they have never been told the benefits of gun ownership. They have however, been told or sold the negative and more often than not, false benefits of the anti-gun crowd. Many objectors do not trust the general public and often believe that only cops should have guns – and reason there is no need for a citizen to own a firearm since the police are there to protect us. The intellectual erosion of the duty of self and family protection has caused many a well meaning citizen shock and dismay when confronted with criminal intent. Anyone who

carries concealed has made a diligent effort to reverse this intellectual erosion by taking the protection of themselves and their families as an important duty – just as important as housing, feeding and clothing their loved ones.

Why do you need to carry a gun? This was a question posed to my wife by a deputy sheriff at a traffic stop. She didn't try to educate the deputy on the Bill of Rights vs. the Bill of Needs. Her answer was short and sweet: "For the same reason You do!" Must be he was satisfied with the answer because she didn't get a ticket. I was once told by an acquaintance: "A man who carries a gun is just looking for trouble!" My

response was: "Man who doesn't carry a gun doesn't value his life or his families!" Again, the acquaintance must have been satisfied because he stopped by 3 weeks later and asked me how to apply for a CCW license.

Sometimes people will challenge your resolve in order to learn more about the subject or to find out if you are simply carrying concealed because you think it's cool or unusual. Once people find out that carrying concealed is a very serious endeavor with immense responsibilities they tend to challenge less and question more. Help them get over the effects of years and years of intellectual erosion by reinforcing the duty and

responsibility of self and family protection. Try to remember that people are bombarded daily with negative facts and innuendoes concerning the deaths caused by guns. Often times, just comparing the deaths caused by another inanimate object, the automobile, will put the objection into perspective especially considering that banning automobiles will save hundreds of thousands more lives each year than banning guns.

For many people self protection and owning a gun has never been an issue so it is parked way-down at the bottom of their importance list. Often times simply offering a question will start to reverse their intellectual erosion. "What will you do if a criminal breaks down your door at 3 o'clock tomorrow morning?" The question will often be answered by silent thought, or silly

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creative solutions, and you probably won't even have to tell them that 911 is referred to as Dial-A-Prayer because of how much murder and mayhem a criminal can do before the police arrive. Also, many people do not know or understand that the police do not have a legal duty to protect you as proven by the many lawsuits file against the police for non or late

response for which the police departments have won. Reminding them that THEY are the only one's that can be counted on in a life threatening emergency is a quick dose of reality and often leads them to more questions regarding their attitudes toward family safety.

I can't have guns in the house because we have small children! This is a statement made by a well-meaning person who really believes that children are a lot safer in a house with no guns. What they really mean is they don't trust themselves with a gun in a house with children since it is always the adults responsibility to keep guns out of the hands of children. Here's an important fact: You can hide a gun in your house from a criminal but you can never hide a gun from a child. Armed with this factual knowledge it is important that (1) You have a gun in your house for protection of your family, and (2) the gun be secured from curious little fingers. There are many ways to secure your personal protection handgun from children, one of the most common is a 4-button combination mini-safe with a tamper horn. Providing your children the silent safety afforded by a personal protection handgun or long gun is one of the most honorable duties a parent can perform. Even if you never have to use the gun to stop a home invasion or to keep a rouge pit bull from chewing your child's head, at least you are doing all you can to ensure your families safety.

What kind of world would this be if everyone carried a handgun? Well for starters it would be a very polite world. It might even be a perfect world because crimes against people would be very, very low. The objection to everyone carrying a handgun is generally rooted in lack of trust of the general public due to a perception that people cannot handle their tempers in conflicts. Often times, objectors to conceal carry will point to that one individual they met in their lifetime that should never be allowed to be around deadly weapons, let alone carry one. Objectors believe that a civilized society is one

where guns are not needed and somehow a society is less civilized when people are allowed to carry guns. This argument is where the civilized society meets the realities of life. The utopian outlook for our society always needs to be tempered with realities otherwise we risk individual losses by those who do not play by our civilized rules. After all, bad people don't prey on people who carry guns because those that don't are a much easier target. The civility of a society is often judged on the respect society members exhibit to one another. I contend that CCW's are more respectful than the general public based upon the awesome responsibility they have accepted and the desire to prevent disagreements or conflicts from degrading to the point where self protection would become necessary. CCW's understand the personal and legal consequences of using their handgun for protection and are going to go out of their way, even to the point of backing down, in order to avoid having to use their carry weapon.

Chances are, it won't happen to me! You will probably never hear this response but you can believe that many people subscribe to this sentiment whether unconsciously or on purpose. Truth is, you hear about crimes against unarmed citizens everyday in every media type. But have you ever heard of robbery, murder, or rape, against an armed citizen? And even if you have, compare that to the crimes against unarmed citizens! Since you have chosen to take your self protection seriously, I contend you are much less likely to become "bait", than those who ignore the realities of the real world. Since you have taken your self protection seriously, I know you worry about those people who do not. Some of them might be close friends or relatives with beautiful children who are totally at the mercy of a home invasion or other crime. When the eventual crime does occur, I know you will shed a tear, or you may even become upset. Take comfort in the choices YOU make in your life. You are free to make the choice to arm yourself, and other people are free to make the choice of not arming themselves. Remember, crime has a way of increasing gun sales.

Try to help the unwilling by not letting myths and misinformation go unanswered; always provide a logical and reasonable answer, or even a question to the misinformed. You are a good and honest citizen who has made the choice to carry concealed based upon realities and good faith. If needed, try to remember the chorus line of the song I told you about in the beginning: "I'm just a soul who's intentions are good, Oh Lord please don't let me be misunderstood". ©2006 Phillip L. Smith