

I remember a talk from my college days where the speaker shared his experience of a tour through a prison with the warden. After seeing many hardened criminals he and the warden passed in front of a mirror and the warden, looking at their own images blurted out: "There stand a couple of murderers." Really?!!!@\$.*** Are we all potential murderers? Given the news of late, it sure seems so.

The shooting earlier this week at a Sikh Temple in Wisconsin is a painful reminder, once again, that America continues to be a violent place. While we are not the most violent country in the world, we are far from the least violent.

Our homicide rate is about 4.5 per 100,000 people, while Columbia's is 62.7 per 100,000. On the other hand, England has a homicide rate of 1.4 per 100,000: so you are about three times as likely to get murdered in the US as compared to England. Some blame our lack of gun control and I think it *is* time we talk about the logic of allowing the unchecked flow of weapons like handguns and assault rifles --which have nothing to do with hunting, or shooting clay pigeons, and everything to do with shooting people.

One thing that puzzles me: the American right is filled with all sorts of people who identify themselves strongly with ~~the~~ conservative Christianity. Those Conservatives ~~Christians~~ claim to take the Bible literally, but seem to have blinders on when it comes to the teachings of Jesus. For example, Jesus said in his Sermon on the Mount: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God... Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth, blessed are the merciful for they will receive mercy." When I confront a Christian who loves guns with such teachings from the man whom they claim to follow. they often invoke the 2nd