



"The Difference Between A Weapons Fighter And Fighting With Weapons"

"Men have become the tool of their tools" Fighting with weapons is a subject that has generated volumes of writing in the combat arts world. What is interesting to note is that for the most part weapons training is treated as requiring a completely different set of training principles as opposed to 'empty hand' fighting. In fact, there are whole martial arts devoted to just training with a weapon. All this leads to tremendous confusion from the client's point of view. Basically, you end up with 2 totally different sets of principles in response to violent attacks:

- 1) One response for a hand-to-hand assault, and
- 2) A completely different response to a weapons attack

Now, on the surface you may think this is a very logical way to view two, seemingly different, attacks.

Remember your brain is your primary weapon; your body is your secondary weapon. If that works for you, as the fighter, then it is equally true for the other guy... he just may not know it!

Given this, what is your weapon-wielding other guy most likely focusing on?

You got it... HIS OWN PHYSICAL WEAPON!

That's right. He's likely banking on the fact that the intimidation factor of his weapon alone is enabling him to do whatever he wants because you are going to fear his weapon. And if you are trained to believe there are different rules when fighting against weapons versus hand-to-hand... then he is probably correct.

That other guy is a good example of a 'Weapons Fighter'.

The definition of a 'weapons fighter' is a person who is solely empowered by his weapon in a confrontation.

His whole plan of attack revolves around the use of the weapon. If the weapon is lost to him during the

conflict then he needs to change his fighting principles to handle his prey. In fact, without the use of the weapon, he may quit the assault altogether and retreat. This is not the way I train my clients.

Your fighting principles MUST be the same with or without a weapon. Fighting is fighting regardless of whether you have a weapon, are facing a weapon, are on the ground, or are assaulted by more than the other guy.

When you truly understand that your brain is your primary weapon, your body your secondary weapon, and

EVERYTHING else (read knife, club, or weapon of choice) is ancillary, you then become a person that knows how to FIGHT WITH A WEAPON... rather than being a 'weapons fighter'. The former gives you unlimited options; the latter limits you to the weapon in hand. My clients achieve the former because they are taught consistent principles that don't change whether they fight with a weapon or against a weapon. They understand how to properly use all weapons yet remain focused on the fact whatever they hold in their hands is just one of many weapons they command.

By understanding how to fight with weapons they also understand how to defeat the 'weapons fighter'. This significantly improves their odds when attacked without the use of an ancillary weapon.

So what will you train to be --- a 'Weapons Fighter' or a person who knows how to FIGHT WITH WEAPONS?