

I will not be a soldier of this world for I am a soldier of Christ. I am a Christian and cannot serve [in the military]. I cannot fight for any earthly consideration. I am now a Christian.

St. Maximilian

There is no true peace that is not founded on justice and right.

Lucretia Mott

I am no advocate of passivity. Quakerism as I understand it does not mean quietism. The early Friends were agitators, disturbers of the peace.

Lucretia Mott

Sooner or later Christians will have to learn that violence of any kind as a response to violence of any kind cannot be reconciled with the teachings of the example given them by the One they claim to follow.

Prof. Gordon Zahn

It will appear from the foregoing exposition that a true Christian non-resistant cannot, with deliberate intent, knowledge or conscious voluntariness, compromise his principles by either of the following acts: he cannot kill, maim, or otherwise absolutely injure any human being, in personal self defense, or for the sake of his family, or any thing he holds dear. He cannot be an officer or private, chaplain, or retainer, in the army, navy or militia of any nation, state or chieftain.

Adin Ballou

We utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fighting with outward weapons, for any end or under any pretence whatsoever. And this is our testimony to the whole world. The Spirit of Christ, which leads us into all Truth, will never move us to fight and war against any person with outward weapons, neither for the kingdom of Christ, nor for the kingdoms of the world.

George Fox and Margaret Fell

The job of the peacemaker is to stop war, to purify the world, to get it saved from poverty and riches, to heal the sick, to comfort the sad, to wake up those who have not yet found God, to create beauty and joy wherever you go, to find God in everything and everybody.

Muriel Lester

All I claim is that every experiment of mine has deepened my faith in nonviolence as the greatest force at the disposal of mankind.

Mohandas Gandhi

We cannot have peace if we are only concerned with peace. War is not an accident. It is the logical outcome of a certain way of life. If we want to attack war, we have to attack that way of life.

A. J. Muste

Nonviolence is not a garment to be put on and off at will. Its seat is in the heart, and it must be an inseparable part of our being.

Mohandas Gandhi

Those who discovered the law of nonviolence in the midst of violence were greater geniuses than Newton.

Mohandas Gandhi

An aspect of the nonviolent Gospel is to see Christ in those people pushed to the edges of society. We need to see and respond to those people. We need to do what we can for the “least” of these brothers and sisters.

Trevor Ferrell

God has not called me to be successful. He has called me to be faithful.

Mother Teresa

If we are all children of the one God, it follows that whenever I kill a human being anywhere, I kill a brother or sister. And whenever I kill a human being anywhere, I offend a heavenly parent of that brother or sister. I offend God.

Prof. Richard McSorley, S.J.

Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Jesus

Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.

Jesus

My personal vocation is to be a pilgrim of peace. Personally I would prefer a thousand times more to be killed than to kill anyone. . . We need only to turn to the Beatitudes—the quintessence of the Gospel message—to see that the option for Christians is clear. We, as Christians, are on the side of nonviolence. This means to believe more strongly in the power of truth, justice, and love than in the power of wars, weapons, and hatred.

Dom Helder Camara

Give to all who beg from you.

Jesus

Love as I have loved.

Jesus

Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate.

Jesus

One can withdraw from the factory, refuse to make munitions, airplanes, atom bombs.

Dorothy Day

They are not to take up deadly weapons or bear them against anyone present.

Rule of St. Francis

We know too, that one evil cannot be cured by another. Evils don't cancel each other out. They total up.

Adolfo Perez Esquivel

Jesus' love is the love of the Executed One for His murderers, the One who Himself can never be a murderer or executioner.

Eberhard Arnold

The New Testament provides some of the directives for building family community on the principle of peace or nonviolence. For Jesus, authority is to be seen as service (MT 20:20-28), and Jesus showed us something of what this means when He washed the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper (JN 13).

James McGinnis

There is no way to peace, peace is the way.

A. J. Muste

The Gospel and those who accept it are not to be protected with the sword and they themselves are not to do it. . . True believing Christians are sheep among the wolves. . . and must be baptized in anxiety and distress, tribulation, persecution, suffering, and death.

Conrad Grebel

We wish the workers would lay down their tools and refuse to make the instruments of death . . . that they would refuse to make instruments of those of war.

Dorothy Day

The fact is that nonviolence requires a sacrifice almost as big as that required by war, plus twice as much courage.

Lanza Del Vasto

All our talks about peace and the weapons of the spirit are meaningless unless we try in every way to embrace voluntary poverty and not work in any position, any job, that contributes to war, not to take any job whose pay comes from fear or war.

Dorothy Day

Christ knew also, just as all reasonable human beings must know, that the employment of violence is incompatible with love, which is the fundamental law of life.

Leo Tolstoy

When being attacked by a band of pagans, his followers prepared to defend themselves. He rebuked them saying, “Sons, stop fighting, Lay down your weapons, for we are told in Scripture not to render evil for good, but to overcome evil by good.” He and his followers were martyred.

St. Boniface

Any moral justification of violence must rest on other than biblical grounds.

**Fr. John L. McKenzie, former president,
Catholic Biblical Association and Society
of Biblical Literature**

The truth might be that in its initial stages unlimited love is very impractical. Folks who are determined enough to hold on to it usually wind up on the cross, like Jesus. Their goods get plundered and they get slandered. Persecution is their lot. Surely nobody would be inclined to call this practical. Yet in its final stages, unlimited love seems to be the only thing that can possibly make any sense. Crucifixions have a way of being followed by resurrections. The end of love seems to be its beginning. Only he who is foolish enough to lose his life finds it. It's the grain of wheat which falls into the ground and dies that lives.

Clarence Jordan

Once people understand the strength of nonviolence—the force it generates, the love it creates, the response it brings from the total community—they will not easily abandon it.

Cesar Chavez

On my knees I beg you to turn away from the paths of violence. I say to you, with all the love I have for you, with all the trust I have in young people, do not listen to the voices which speak the language of hatred, revenge, retaliation. Do not follow any leaders who train you in the way of inflicting death. Give yourself to the service of life, not the work of death. Violence is the enemy of justice. Only peace can lead the way to true justice.

Pope John Paul II

Nonviolence is really tough. You don't practice nonviolence by attending conferences; you practice it on the picket lines.

Cesar Chavez

The darkness that we see in our world today is due to the disintegration of things out of harmony with God's laws. The basic conflict is not between nations, it is between two opposing beliefs. The first is that evil can be overcome by evil, that the end justifies the means. This belief is very prevalent in our world today. It is the war way. It is the official position of every major nation. Then there is the way that was taught two thousand years ago—of overcoming evil with good, which is my way, the way Jesus taught. Never lose faith: God's way is bound to prevail in the end.

Peace Pilgrim

He who is executed on the Cross can never execute anyone. He never kills; He Himself is killed. He never crucifies; He Himself is crucified.

Eberhard Arnold

We have tried violence. We have tried wars. . . I am sure that the attempt to kill the Palestinian mayors on the West Bank will bring more killings of Jews. I am sure. It's a vicious circle. It's the logic of violence. Already I hear the threats. And this has never helped—not the Jews, not the Palestinians. So we know where we are going with violence. Even if we are not certain where we are going with nonviolence, let us try it. At least we can be sure with nonviolent action that even if we accept being destroyed ourselves, we will not destroy any other person.

Archbishop Elias Chacour

When we are really honest with ourselves, we must admit that our lives are all that really belong to us. So, it is how we use our lives that determines what kind of persons we are. It is my deepest belief that only by giving our lives do we find life. I am convinced that the truest act of courage, the strongest act of humanity is to sacrifice ourselves for others in a totally nonviolent struggle for justice. To be human is to suffer for others. God help us to be human.

Cesar Chavez

To be aware that the world will always use the sword is realistic. But that realism must be combined with the certainty that Jesus stands free of bloodshed; He can never be an executioner.

Eberhard Arnold

Nobody was born nonviolent. No one was born charitable. None of us comes to these things by nature but only by conversion. The first duty of the nonviolent community is helping its members work upon themselves to come to conversion.

Lanza Del Vasto

A Christian who kills another Christian spills the blood of Christ.

Council of Narbonne, 1045

From a moral point of view ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) has no place on (Georgetown, or any Christian) campus because the gospel asks us to love our enemies, but ROTC teaches us how to kill them.

Prof. Richard McSorley, S.J.

MPPJ p. 106

Now, if we pass from the practical behavior of the Church to Catholic doctrinal positions regarding the problem of war, it becomes clear that theology has sustained the theory of the “just war” for many centuries—a theory which however, never became official, which never was blessed by the magisterium of the Church.

La Civiltá Cattolica, 1991

Though Mother and Dad never precisely taught us nonviolence, I do remember a comment by Dad as we watched a military parade, “If they would require the military to wear bloody aprons with a bloody knife stuck in their belt, then they wouldn’t deceive people so much about what they are doing.” Though I was very young and knew nothing about war, that statement impressed me.

Prof. Richard McSorley, S.J.

My Path to Peace and Justice MPPJ p.39**My notes not to be included on quote card

Killing begets more killing.

Prof. Richard McSorley, S.J.

MPPJ p.135

Whatever one may think about the orthodoxy of these Churches (Friends, (Quakers,) Mennonites, Church of the Brethren) concerning such doctrines as the number and nature of the sacraments, etc. even conservative Roman Catholics must grant that these Churches have grasped the true meaning of what Jesus said about violence better than Catholics or any mainline Church. If the Roman Catholic Church were to decide to join the Mennonites in refusing violence, I doubt whether our harmonious relations with the government would endure the day after the decision. Yet we Catholics know the Mennonites are right.

**Fr. John L. McKenzie, former president,
Catholic Biblical Association and Society
of Biblical Literature**

We believe, with Saint Paul, both that each of us (including the children) is unique, and that we should be working together to build up our family body/community and our world body/community. We want, as a family, to build them up together. Part of our working for peace in the world, then, is working to build our family community. If we can experience the possibility of peace—nonviolent conflict resolution—at the family level, then our faith in the possibility of peace and our willingness to work for it at the other levels grows.

James McGinnis

To practice
What is logical
Even if it is not practiced
Is to be a leader.
A leader is a fellow
Who follows a cause.
The Sermon on the Mount
Will be called practical
When Christians make up their mind
To practice it

Peter Maurin

The job of the peacemaker is to stop war, to purify the world, to get it saved from poverty and riches, to heal the sick to comfort the sad, to wake up those who have not yet found God, to create beauty and joy wherever you go, to find God in everything and everybody.

Muriel Lester

We do not, ultimately, love our neighbor because Jesus told us to. We love our neighbor because God is like that. It is not because Jesus told us to love even beyond the limits of reason and justice, even to the point of refusing to kill and being willing to suffer—but because God is like that too.

Christ is agape; self-giving, nonresistant love. At the cross this nonresistance, including the refusal to use political means of self-defense, found its ultimate revelation in the uncomplaining and forgiving death of the innocent at the hands of the guilty. This death reveals how God deals with evil; here is the only valid starting point for Christian pacifism or nonresistance.

The cross is the extreme demonstration that agape seeks neither effectiveness nor justice, and is willing to suffer any loss or seeming defeat for the sake of obedience. But the cross is not defeat. Christ's obedience unto death was crowned by the miracle of the resurrection and the exaltation at the right hand of God.

John Howard Yoder

“Let us not use bombs and guns to overcome the world,” she said. “Let us use love and compassion. Let us preach the peace of Christ as He did.” When she was being interviewed, she expressed her conviction on the sacredness of life, even of the unborn. The writer wanted to know if she thought the taking of life was ever justified, in war, for example. She shook her head silently. She could not give assent to the taking of human life. “But,” she said to the interviewer, “your church teaches that there can be a just war.” Mother Teresa continued to shake her head, indicating the negative. “I can’t understand it.” The man pursued the subject. “Catholics have to believe that teaching.” Mother Teresa looked at the interviewer and, with a vehemence rare to her, put a question to him, “Then I am not a Catholic?”

Eileen Egan writing about Mother Teresa

God has not called me to be successful. He has called me to be faithful.

Mother Teresa

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Lucretia Mott

I am no advocate of passivity. Quakerism as I understand it does not mean quietism. The early Friends were agitators, disturbers of the peace.

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The darkness that we see in our world today is due to the disintegration of things out of harmony with God's laws. The basic conflict is not between nations, it is between two opposing beliefs. The first is that evil can be overcome by more evil, that the end justifies the means. This belief is very prevalent in our world today. It is the war way. It is the official position of every major nation. Then there is the way that was taught two thousand years ago—of overcoming evil with good, which is my way, the way Jesus taught. Never lose faith: God's way is bound to prevail in the end.

Peace Pilgrim

If we cannot know from the New Testament that Christ totally rejects violence, then we can know nothing of His person or message. It is the clearest of teachings. No reader of the New Testament, simple or sophisticated, can retain any doubt of Jesus' position toward violence directed to persons, individual or collective, organized or free enterprise: he rejected it totally.

Fr. John L. McKenzie

Former president, Catholic Biblical Association and Society of Biblical Literature

We have always questioned armed liberation movements—for today's oppressed will become tomorrow's oppressors.

Adolfo Perez Esquivel

To “put on the mind of Christ” is indeed to put on a mind that rejects violence and refused to condone or cultivate the will to kill. But in the first instance the mind of Christ is not a “No” to violence or greed or to anything else. The center, the circumference and everything in between the mind of Christ is a “Yes” to Abba, the true God who is unconditional Love and everlasting Mercy. This, accordingly, is also the Alpha and the Omega of all Christian nonviolence.

Fr. Emmanuel Charles McCarthy

The world waits for a great nation that has the common sense, the imagination, the faith to devote to the science and practice of nonviolence so much as a tenth of the money, brains, skill and devotion which it now devotes to the madness of war preparations. What is that nation waiting for before it undertakes its mission?

A. J. Muste

We cannot seriously imagine Jesus pushing the button to launch a nuclear bomb, or registering for the draft, or wearing the uniform of any national state, or paying taxes for nuclear weapons, or working in a plant that manufactures weapons of death.

Prof. Richard McSorley, S.J.

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