

No Early Christian Beliefs about Enemies, Killing and the Military

Print on white paper and cut to 4 1/2 in. x 4 in.
Glue to yellow cardstock cut to 5 in. by 4 1/2
in.

Man is so sacred a creature that
it is always wrong to kill him. . .
No exceptions can be made to
this commandment of God.

Lactantius
(A.D. 240-320)

Early Christian Beliefs About Enemies, Killing and the Military

It makes no difference whether you put a
man to death by word or by sword,
since it is the act of putting to death
which is prohibited. Therefore, with
regard to this precept of God,
there can be no exception at all.

Lactantius
(A.D. 240-320)

We who formerly murdered one another
now not only do not make war upon our
enemies. . . we gladly die confessing Christ.

Justin Martyr
Apology I ii 39
(A.D. 100-165)

I have no desire to rule.
I crave not riches.
I decline military command.

Tatian
Oratio ad Graecos
(A.D. 110-180)

We who were filled with war and
mutual slaughter and every wickedness have
each of us in all the world changed
our weapons of war. . .swords into plows
and spears into pruning hooks.

Justin Martyr
Trypho CX
(A.D. 100-165)

The Church is an army which
sheds no blood.

Clement of Alexandria,
Quis Dives Salvetur
(A.D. 150-215)

In peace not in war we are
trained. War needs great preparation, but
peace and love. . .require no arms, no
expensive outlay.

Clement of Alexandria,
Paedagogus I xxii, II iv
(A.D. 150-215)

God designed man [and woman]
for tilling and not for killing.

Cyprian, *De Habitu Virginum*
(A.D. 200-258)

I am a soldier of Christ. To fight is not
permissible for me.

St. Martin of Tours
Dictionary of Christian Biography
(A.D. 316-397)

The soldier (who becomes a
Christian)...shall not kill anyone. If
ordered to do so he shall not carry out
the order...If he does not accept this let
him be dismissed (from the Christian
Community)

The Catechumen or believer who wishes
to become a soldier shall be dismissed
(from the Christian Community).

from the *Apostolic Tradition*
(A.D. 215)