



PART 16: A TALE OF TWO CITIES

Nothing is more clear in the moral message of Jesus than his exhortations to and example of forgiveness, mercy, and meekness in the face of abuse or assault.

~ Lisa Sowle Cahill

Lived out consistently, the Christian community can become a genuine counterculture that serves as a witness to a world increasingly caught up in the spiral of violence.

~ Douglas J. Moo

The overwhelming evidence suggests that the followers of Jesus were pacifists for the first three centuries. Many early church leaders and documents underscore the unwavering commitment to nonviolence.

~ Charles Kimball

As the early Christians knew, the rejection of war is not an optional ethical issue. Rather, it is the clearest indication of the church's calling to be a community free from nationalist and other forms of domination.

~ Richard Deats

We who hated and destroyed one another, and on account of their different manners would not live with men of a different tribe, now, since the coming of Christ, live familiarly with them. We pray for our enemies.

~ Justin Martyr, (155 C.E.)

We Christians no longer take up sword against nation, nor do we learn to make war any more, having become children of peace for the sake of Jesus who is our leader.

~ Origen (248 C.E.)

We have learned from the precepts and laws of Christ not to repay evil for evil, to endure injury rather than inflict it, to shed our own blood rather than to stain our hands and conscience with the blood of another.

~ Arnobius (304 C.E.)

Have we not come to such an impasse in the modern world that we must love our enemies - or else? The chain reaction of evil - hate begetting hate, wars producing more wars - must be broken, or else we shall be plunged into the dark abyss of annihilation.

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

In Romans 12 and 13, Paul calls on believers to renounce violence in defence of justice. Simply put, harming or killing enemies is no longer a justifiable option in the light of Jesus' kingdom demand. Believers must renounce violence in their personal relationships and avoid governmental positions that might force them to use violence.

~ Richard B. Hays

Whenever the church and the state enter into a relationship, inevitably the church ends up becoming the state's whore. She is used for the political expedience of the state and the state is inevitably an abusive spouse.

~ Emir Fethi Caner

Vengeance is a way of allowing the evil that someone has done to you to continue to hold you in its power. Part of the enormous breakthrough achieved by Jesus in his teaching and death is found just here: that to suffer innocently and not to retort or retaliate is to win a far greater victory than can ever be achieved by hitting back. It is to win a victory over evil itself.

~ N. T. Wright

I am not ashamed of the gospel.

~ The Apostle Paul