



Week 1: THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES
How we got from Enemy Love to Just War

The Anabaptists are beginning to make more and more sense to a world that is increasingly aware of the emptiness of materialism and the ugliness of militarism. Anabaptist logic is rooted in the wisdom of the cross of Jesus, which Scripture says confounds the wisdom of this world. It seems the world is poised for a new Anabaptist movement.

~ Shane Claiborne, *Brethren In Christ* author

I am finding a growing hunger for a more authentic, whole-life faith that makes a difference in the lives of others. Many are discovering their answer in the Anabaptist witness, as I did 30 years ago.

~ Tom Sine, author of *The New Conspirators*

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, *When Religion Becomes Evil*

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, *Active Nonviolence:
A Way of Life, A Strategy for Change*

How do you defeat a movement that defines defeat as victory? ... Constantine.

~ James Carroll, *Constantine's Sword*

The Constantinian Shift amounted to a fundamental reorientation in the relationship of church and world.

~ John Howard Yoder, *Christian Attitudes to War, Peace, and Revolution*

In a way, the story of Constantine is the second-greatest story ever told, at least concerning what we think of as Western civilization. After the death and resurrection of Jesus, the conversion of Constantine may have been the most implication-laden event in Western history.

~ James Carroll, *Constantine's Sword*

Judging from his actions during the earlier part of his rule, one can conclude that Constantine at least completely misunderstood Jesus' teaching about love, or more likely, didn't even think about Jesus' teachings at all.

~ Daniel Best, *Anabaptist Scholar*

When the power of the empire became joined to the ideology of the Church, the empire was immediately recast and reenergized, and the Church became an entity so different from what had preceded it as to be almost unrecognizable.

~ James Carroll, *Constantine's Sword*

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, *Christian Jihad*

Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end.

~ *Hebrews 12:2 (TEV)*