

PEACE AND WAR

Article 16

XVI. Peace and War

“It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the spirit and teachings of Christ they should do all in their power to put an end to war.

“The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love. Christian people throughout the world should pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace.”

Genesis 1:27; 2:7; Matthew 6:6-7,24; 16:26; 22:21; John 8:36; Acts 4:19-20; Romans 6:1-2; 13:1-7; Galatians 5:1,13; Philippians 3:20; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; James 4:12; 1 Peter 2:12-17; 3:11-17; 4:12-19.

Key Verse: “If possible, on your part,
live at peace with everyone.”

(Romans 12:18)

OPTIONAL VIEWS ON WAR

Option #1—Pacifism: All uses of war are morally wrong and that Christians must renounce all uses of arms (p. 156).

Question: Is allowing the slaughter of innocent people a righteous stance to take?

Option #2—Just War: Armed conflict may sometimes be the necessary and even morally superior option (p. 157).

Peace can only be established on righteous principles (BF&M 2000)

Just War Criteria:

- Just cause—defensive war
- Just intention—to secure a lasting peace
- War is Last Resort
- Limited objectives—peace
- Non-combatants protected as much as possible

THE FINAL SOLUTION
The Reign of
the Prince of Peace

Isaiah 2:4
Micah 4:1-5

What will happen to the weapons of war?

What will become of training for war?

How can Christians make peace in
this world?

“Having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace”
(Ephesians 6:15).

The gospel changes our hearts.
The source of war is the sinful
human heart.

Peace Practices:

- Matthew 5:9
- Matthew 5:43-48
- Matthew 26:52
- Romans 12:18-19
- James 4:1-2