
BIBLICAL / THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS OF NONVIOLENCE: THE BIBLE AND JESUS

1. **Talk to Scripture** (George McClain “Claiming All Things for God”)
2. **Hopes and Goals for Sessions**
3. **Wall of God’s *Biblical* History**
4. **Jesus’ Nonviolent Initiative:** Jesus’ nonviolent action campaign (Mark 5:1-20, Luke 6:6-11)
5. **Love your Enemies:** Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:38-48)
 - a. “Nonviolent revolution is not a program for seizing power. It is a program for transforming relationships, ending in a peaceful transfer of power” (Gandhi idea as restated by Wink)
6. **Nonviolent Evangelism (Spiritual Direction for Enemies)**
 - a. “Love of enemies is seeing one’s oppressors through the prism of the Reign of God” (Wink p. 55)
 - b. “To our most bitter opponents we say: we shall match your capacity to inflict suffering by our capacity to endure suffering. We shall meet your physical force with soul force. Do to us what you will, and we shall continue to love you. We cannot in all good conscience obey your unjust laws, because non-cooperation with evil is as much a moral obligation as is cooperation with good. Throw us in jail and we shall still love you. Bomb our homes and threaten our children, and we shall still love you. Send your hooded perpetrators of violence into our communities at the midnight hour and beat us and leave us half dead, and we shall still love you. But be ye assured that we will wear you down by our capacity to suffer. One day we shall win freedom, but not only for ourselves. We shall so appeal to your heart and conscience that we shall win you in the process, and our victory will be a double victory. (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Christmas 1957; Dexter Ave. Baptist Church; Montgomery, AL)
 - c. Turn the other cheek, etc. (Matthew 5:38-42)
 - i. “When the court translators working in the hire of King James chose to translate *antistenai* as “resist not evil,” they were doing something more than rendering Greek into English. They were translating nonviolent resistance into docility.” (Wink, South Africa p. 13). The verb means violent rebellion, armed revolt, insurrection (Mark 15:7, Luke 23:19, 25), rioting (Acts 19:40) Proper translation: “Do not strike back at evil in kind (or one who has done you evil), do not retaliate against violence with violence.
 - ii. “By refusing to be awed by their power, the powerless are emboldened to seize the initiative...” (Wink p. 19)
 - iii. Discomfort of the oppressor: “Can people who are engaged in oppressive acts repent unless they are made uncomfortable with their actions?” (Wink p. 22)
 - iv. “Loving confrontation can free both the oppressed from docility and the oppressor from sin.” (Wink p. 22)
 - v. Nonviolence – a just means of opposing the enemy ... so to hold open the possibility of the enemy becoming just also. (Wink p. 3)
7. **Lord’s Prayer**

Padre nuestro, que estas en los cielos, santificado sea tu nombre
Venga a nosotros tu reino, hágase tu voluntad aquí en la tierra como en los cielos.
Da nos hoy nuestro pan de cada día
Perdona nuestros ofensas, como también perdonamos a los que nos ofenden
No nos dejes caer en la tentación, más líbranos del todo mal.
(por que tuyo es el reino, el poder, y la gloria por los siglos de los siglos) Amen.