

WHEN JESUS QUOTES

THE OLD TESTAMENT

MATTHEW 5:33-37

- ▶ "Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.' Matthew 5:33
- ▶ *But I tell you:*
 - ▶ *Don't swear - simply "yes" or "no"*

- ▶ "If a man vows a vow to the Lord, or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word. He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth" Numbers 30:2
- ▶ "If you make a vow to the Lord your God, you shall not delay fulfilling it, for the Lord your God will surely require it of you, and you will be guilty of sin. But if you refrain from making a vow, you will not be guilty. Whatever your lips utter you must be sure to do, because you made your vow freely to the LORD your God with your own mouth" Deuteronomy 23:21

NOT ELIMINATED, BUT EXPANDED TO ALWAYS BE TRUTHFUL

MATTHEW 5:38-48

- ▶ Two views

A tale of two brothers...





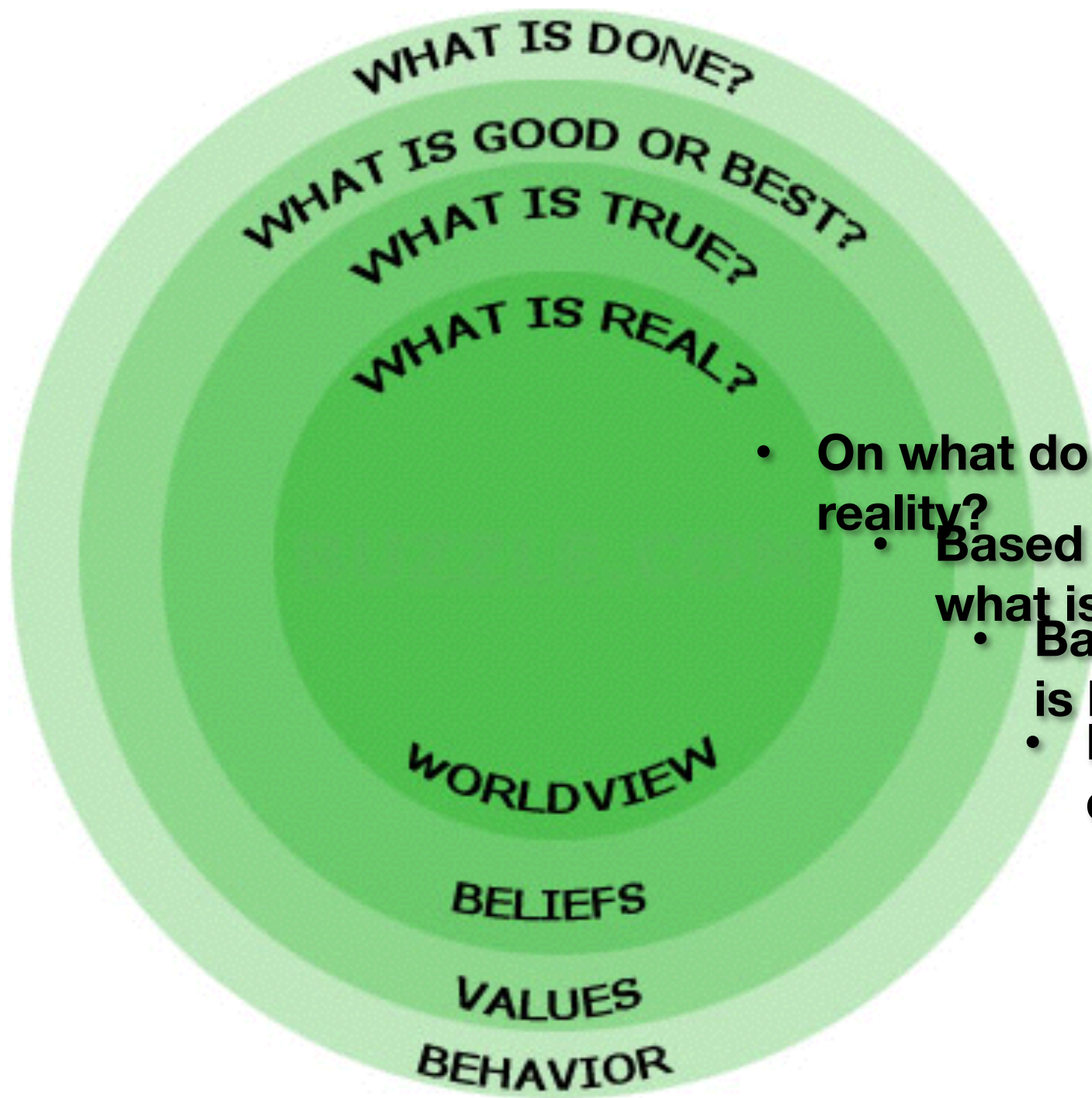
NONVIOLENCE:

RADICAL, BUT NOT NOVEL.

CRAZY, BUT BEAUTIFUL.

Matthew 5:38-48





- On what do you base your reality?
 - Based on your reality, what is true?
 - Based on your truth, what is best?
 - Based on your what is best, what do you do?

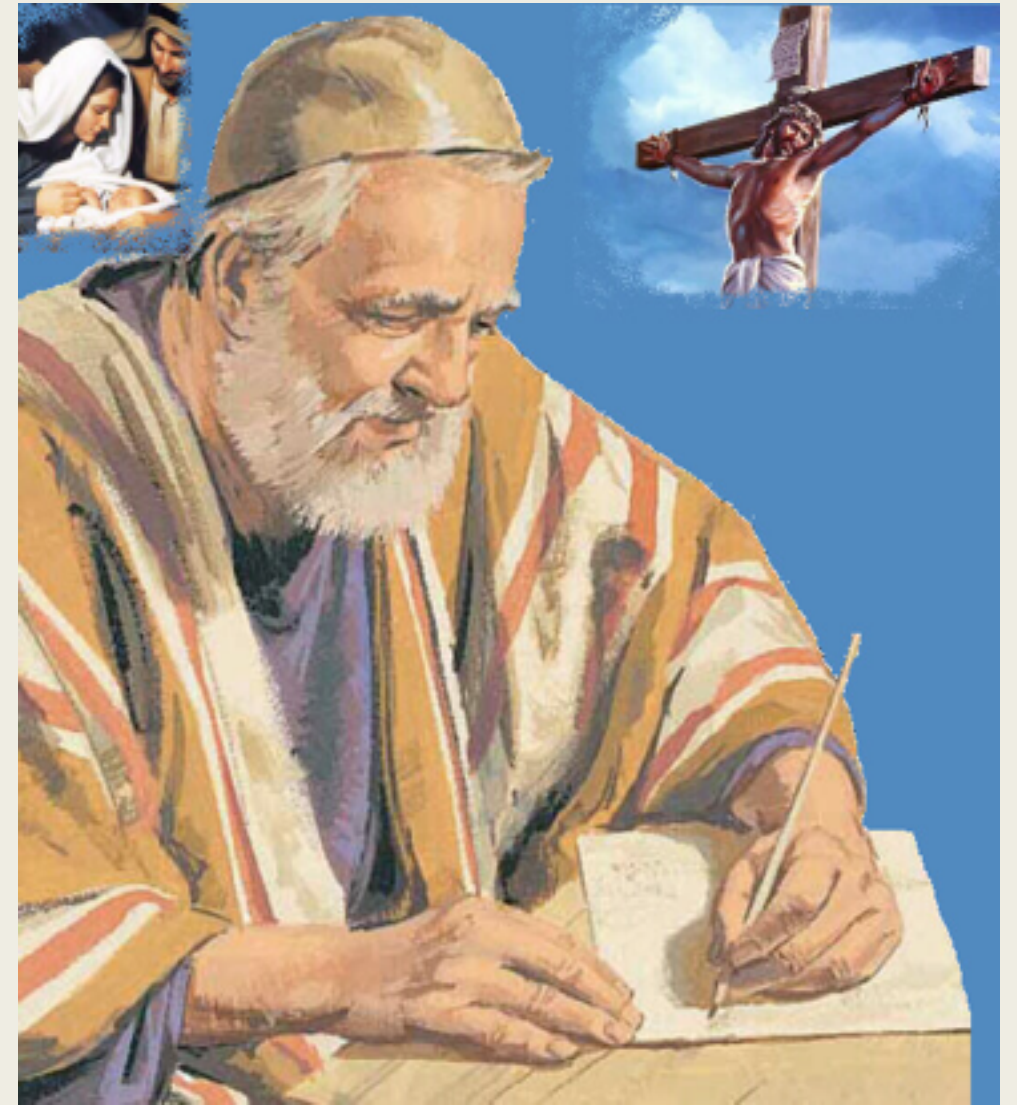
The History of the Non-Violence Perspective

- The 10 Commandments
 - *“You shall not murder.” (Exodus 20:13)*
- Levitical Codes
 - *“Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.” (Leviticus 19:18)*



The History of the Non-Violence Perspective

- Isaiah
 - *“They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.” (Isaiah 2:4)*



The History of the Non-Violence Perspective

- Jesus
 - *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. (Matt. 5:9)*
 - *You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. (Matt. 5:38-39)*
 - *Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. (Matt. 5:43-48, Luke 6:27-28)*
 - *Put your sword back in its place...for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. (Matt. 26:52)*



The History of the Non-Violence Perspective

- *Aristides*
 - *“Whatever Christians would not wish others to do to them, they do not to others. And they comfort their oppressors and make them their friends; they do good to their enemies.... Through love towards their oppressors, they persuade them to become Christians.” (The Apology of Aristides)*



The History of the Non-Violence Perspective

- *“For since we, a numerous band of men as we are, have learned from His teaching and His laws that evil ought not to be requited with evil, that it is better to suffer wrong than to inflict it, that we should rather shed our own blood than stain our hands and our conscience with that of another, an ungrateful world is now for a long period enjoying a benefit from Christ, inasmuch as by His means the rage of savage ferocity has been softened, and has begun to withhold hostile hands from the blood of a fellow-creature.” (Arnobius, Adversus Gentes I:VI)*



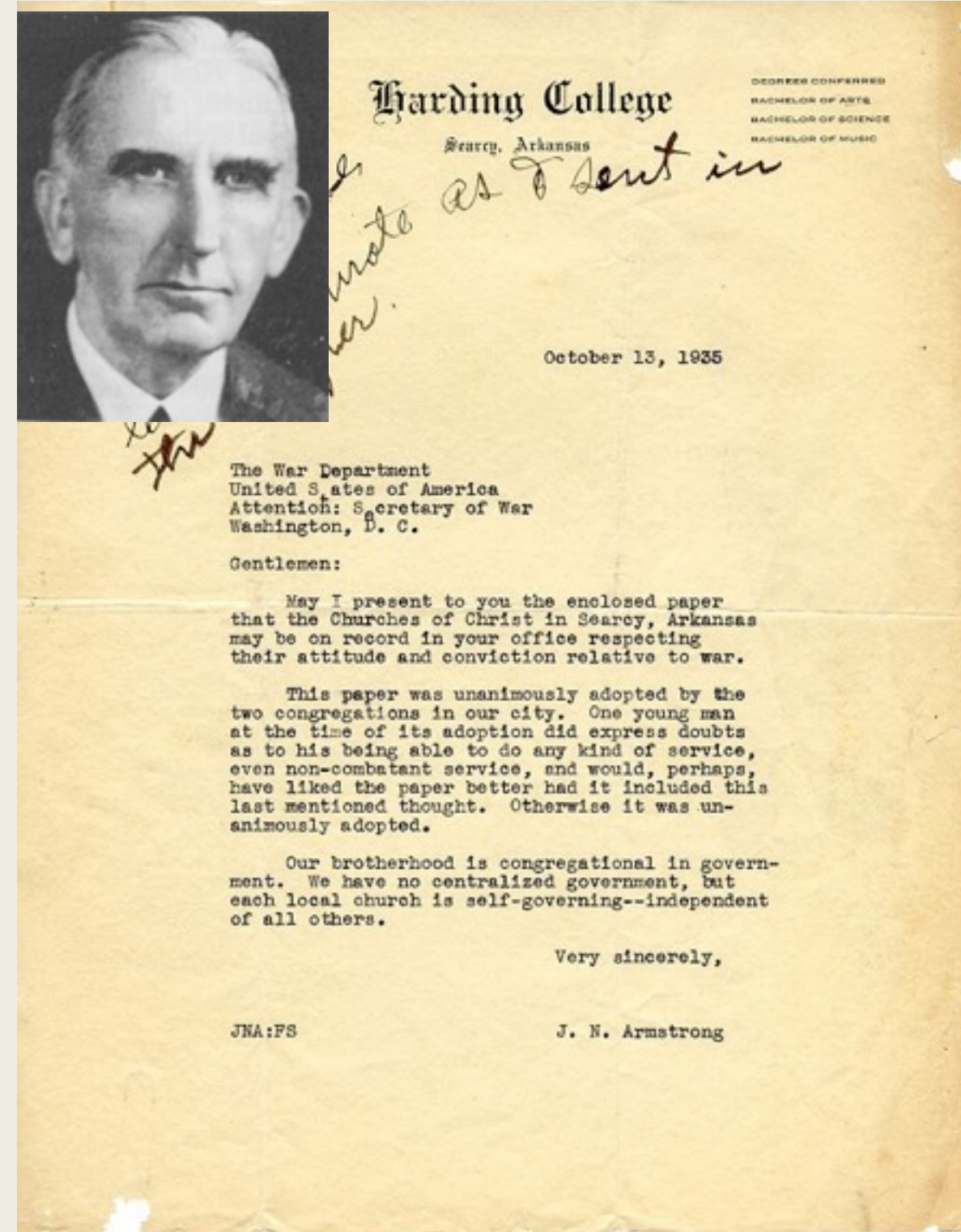
The History of the Non-Violence Perspective

- Christian Churches
 - *The Seventh Day Adventists*
 - *Churches of God*
 - *Church of the Brethren*
 - *Mennonites*
 - *The Amish*
 - *Quakers*
 - *Branches of Catholicism*
 - *Restoration Movement Churches*



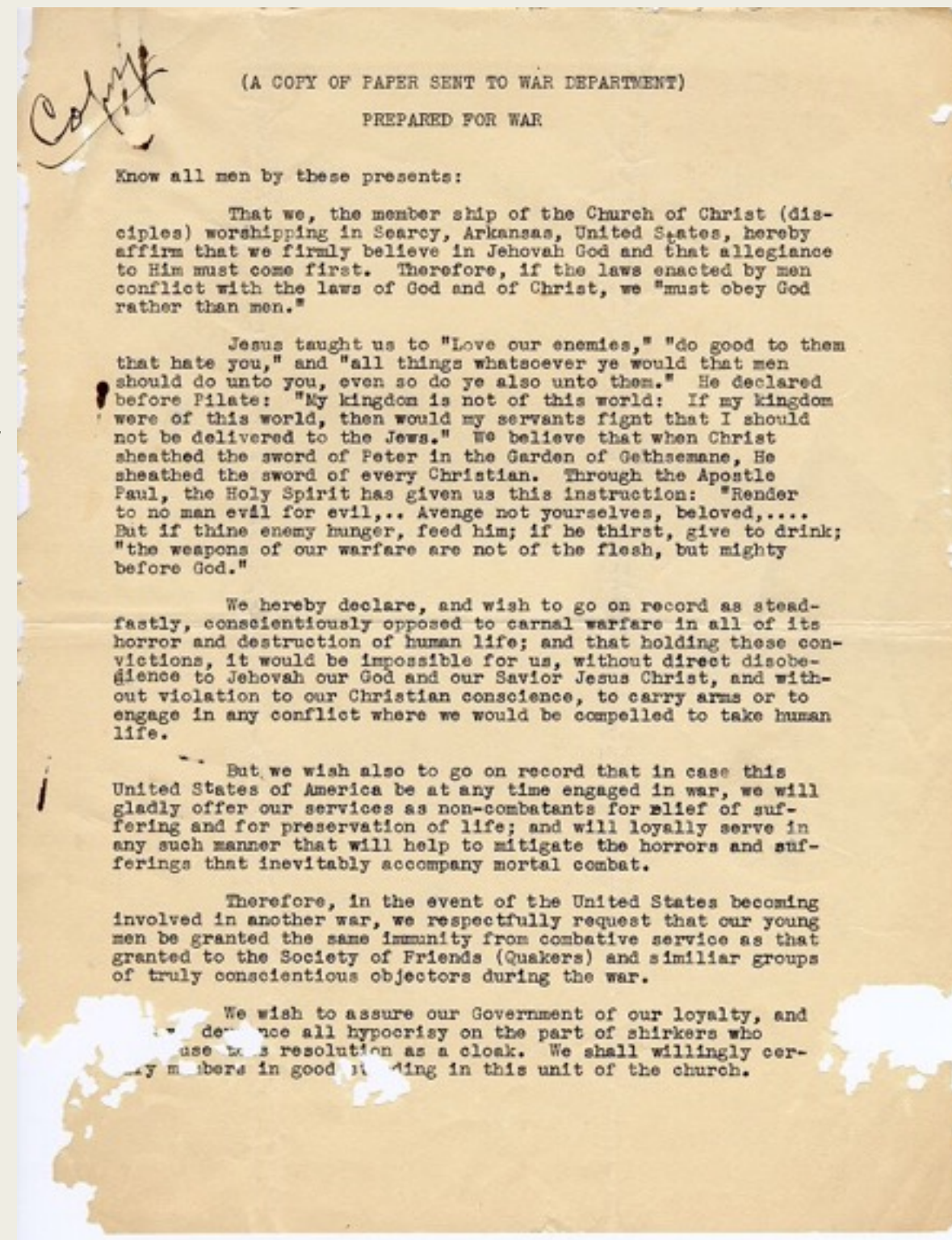
The History of the Non-Violence Perspective

- The Churches of Christ (1935)
 - *“We hereby declare, and wish to go on record as steadfastly, conscientiously opposed to carnal warfare in all of its horror and destruction of human life; and that holding these convictions, it would be impossible for us, without direct disobedience to Jehovah our God and our Savior Jesus Christ, and without violation to our Christian conscience, to carry arms or to engage in any conflict where we would be compelled to take human life.”*



The History of the Non-Violence Perspective

- The Churches of Christ (1935)
 - *“We hereby declare, and wish to go on record as steadfastly, conscientiously opposed to carnal warfare in all of its horror and destruction of human life; and that holding these convictions, it would be impossible for us, without direct disobedience to Jehovah our God and our Savior Jesus Christ, and without violation to our Christian conscience, to carry arms or to engage in any conflict where we would be compelled to take human life.”*



The History of the Non-Violence Perspective

- Desmond Doss
 - WW2
 - *First (of three ever) conscientious objectors to receive the Medal of Honor*



The History of the Non-Violence Perspective

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - *“And I’m foolish enough to believe that through the power of this love somewhere, men of the most recalcitrant bent will be transformed. And then we will be in God’s kingdom. We will be able to matriculate into the university of eternal life because we had the power to love our enemies, to bless those persons that cursed us, to even decide to be good to those persons who hated us, and we even prayed for those persons who despitefully used us. Oh God, help us in our lives and in all of our attitudes, to work out this controlling force of love, this controlling power that can solve every problem that we confront in all areas.”*



Key Principles of the Non-Violence View

- God is the Judge
 - “Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord. On the contrary: ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.’ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:19-21)



Key Principles of the Non-Violence View

- Our Kingdom is Not of This World
 - “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place.” (John 18:36)
 - “For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not weapons of the world.” (2 Corinthians 10:3-4)
 - “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” (Ephesians 6:12)



Key Principles of the Non-Violence View

- We Are Made in the Image of God
 - *“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1:27)*
 - *“Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind.” (Genesis 9:6)*



Key Principles of the Non-Violence View



- Jesus Lived a Non-Violent Life and His Early Disciples Did Too
 - *“You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. **Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (2 Tim 3:10-17)***

Key Principles of the Non-Violence View

- Nonviolence seeks to win friendship and understanding.
 - *The end result of nonviolence is redemption and reconciliation.*
 - *The purpose of nonviolence is the creation of the Beloved Community.*



Key Principles of the Non-Violence View

- Nonviolence seeks to defeat injustice not people.
 - *Nonviolence recognizes that evildoers are also victims and are not evil people.*
 - *The nonviolent resister seeks to defeat evil not people.*



Key Principles of the Non-Violence View

- Nonviolence holds that suffering can educate and transform.
 - *Nonviolence accepts suffering without retaliation.*
 - *Unearned suffering is redemptive and has tremendous educational and transforming possibilities.*



Key Principles of the Non-Violence View

- Nonviolence believes that the universe is on the side of justice.
 - *The nonviolent resister has deep faith that justice will eventually win.*
 - *Nonviolence believes that God is a God of justice.*
 - *“Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him! People of Zion, who live in Jerusalem, you will weep no more. How gracious he will be when you cry for help! As soon as he hears, he will answer you.” (Isaiah 30:19)*



Key Principles of the Non-Violence View

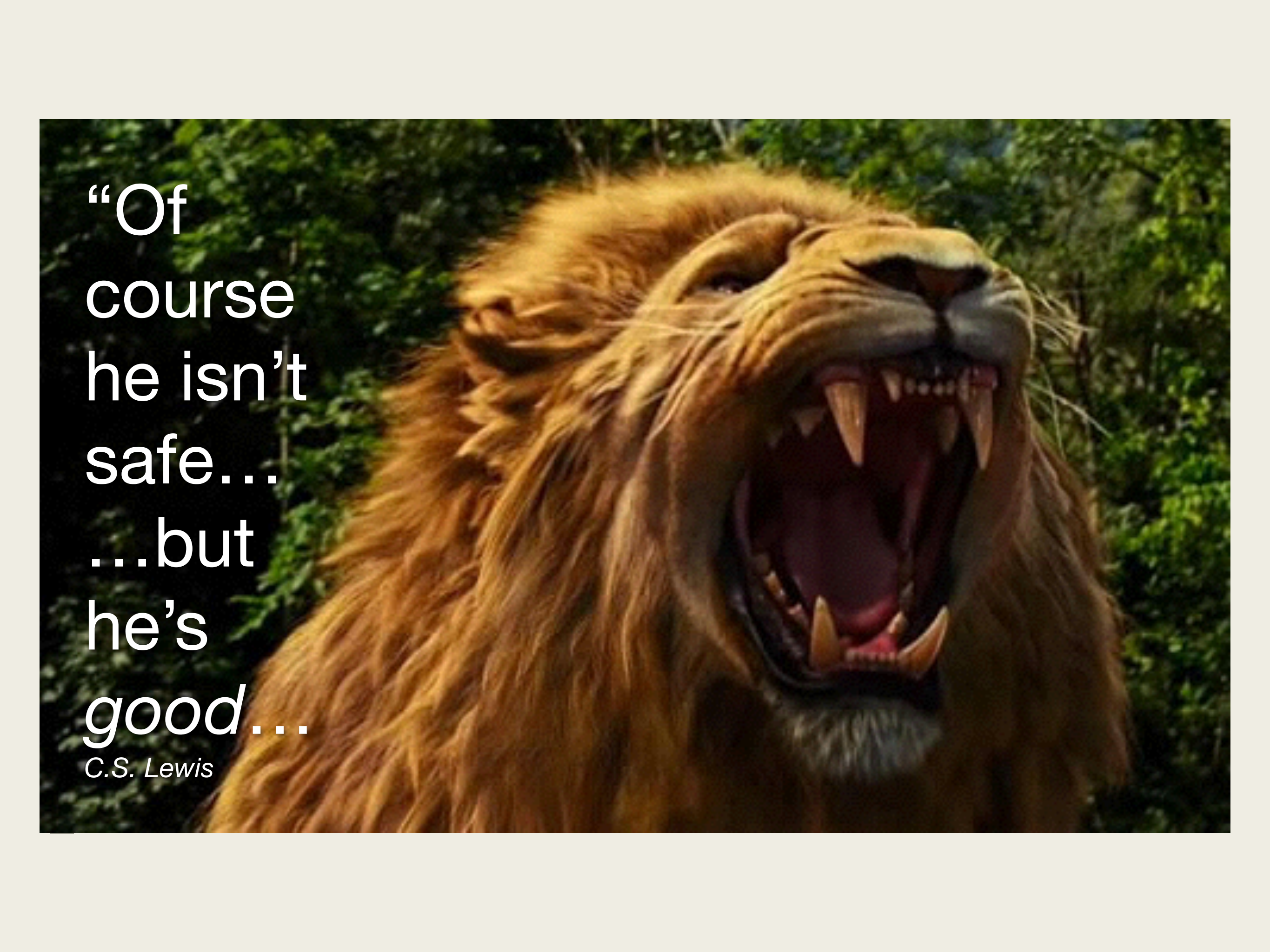
- Our Hope is In the Lord and His Promises
 - *But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened. But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. (1 Pt 3)*
 - *Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God. (Ps 20:7)*



Key Principles of the Non-Violence View

- Personal Conviction





“Of
course
he isn’t
safe....
...but
he’s
good....

C.S. Lewis

MATTHEW 5:38-42

- ▶ You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.'
Matthew 5:38
- ▶ *But I tell you:*
 - ▶ *Do not resist or retaliate against an evil person*

- ▶ "eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot"
Exodus 21:24
- ▶ "fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; whatever injury he has given a person shall be given to him". Leviticus 24:20
- ▶ "Your eye shall not pity. It shall be life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot." Deuteronomy 19:21

THE JEWISH PRACTICE

▶ Mishnah - Baba Kamma 8.1

- ▶ "If a man wounded his fellow he thereby becomes liable on five counts: for injury, for pain, for healing, for loss of time, and for indignity inflicted. 'For injury' - thus, if he blinded his fellow's eye, cut off his hand, or broke his foot, [his fellow] is looked upon as if he was a slave to be sold in the market: they assess how much he was worth and how much he is worth now. 'For pain'..."

▶ Gemara

- ▶ "We have learned in a Boraitha: R. Simeon b. Johi said: "Eye for eye' means its value. You say, its value. Perhaps it means literally? Nay, for what should be done when a blind man blinds another, etc.? - how should be fulfilled the commandment "eye for eye"? And lest one say that such a case is an exception, therefore the Scripture reads [Lev. 24:22] "One manner of judicial law shall ye have" from which is to be inferred that it means a law which can be applied alike to all human cases."

EYE FOR AN EYE

- ▶ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

- ▶ Old Testament laws were directed at social justice by "civil" authorities
- ▶ People were applying "eye for eye" and justifying PERSONAL vengeance and PERSONAL revenge
- ▶ If Physical injury for physical injury
 - ▶ Then Insult (slap) for insult (slap)
- ▶ 1 Peter 3:8-9
- ▶ 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15
- ▶ Romans 12:17-21
 - ▶ Romans 13-Submit to civil authorities, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer

NOT ELIMINATED, BUT CLARIFIED

MATTHEW 5:43-48

▶ "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'" Matthew 5:43

▶ *But I tell you:*

▶ *Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you*

▶ ""Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord." Leviticus 19:18

▶ "Do not seek a treaty of friendship with them as long as you live" Deuteronomy 23:6

▶ Deuteronomy 15:1-11

NEVER COMMANDED. CLARIFIED

THE LAW - MATTHEW 5:17-20

- ▶ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:17-20

THE LAW

- ▶ "How can he say that not a tittle shall pass from the Law, since the development of the Church shows us that the ceremonial law, that the whole Mosaic dispensation, has been annihilated by the influences proceeding from Christ? We answer: He has fulfilled the Law, whilst he has released it from the temporary forms in which its eternal validity was confined; he has unfolded its spiritual essence, its inward perfection. Not even a tittle of the ceremonial law has passed away, if we regard the Mosaic Law as a whole; for the ideas which form its basis, as the distinction between the unclean and the clean, are confirmed by Christ, and contained in the law of holiness which he teaches men" ('Christian Ethics: General,' § 125); - Pulpit Commentary
- ▶ Laws became deeper principles of the heart
 - ▶ Hebrews 10
 - ▶ Romans 7-10
 - ▶ Colossians 2-4

NEXT WEEK

- ▶ "I desire mercy, not sacrifice"
 - ▶ Matthew 9:9-13
 - ▶ Matthew 12:1-8