

The Case For Nonviolent Civil Disobedience



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Website: <http://www.issues4life.org>

How Do You Know Your Christianity Is Real?

- Acts 21:10-14; Philippians 2:5-8; Jude 1:3 -

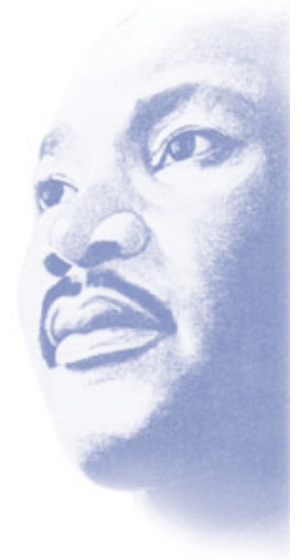
THE GOAL OF THIS WORKSHOP

The goal of this workshop to increase the numbers of those willing to stand publicly for the “**Sanctity of Human Life**” and consequently stand publicly against such injustices as:

- **Abortion**,
- Embryonic Stem Cell Research,
- Human Trafficking
- Ennoblement of Homosexuality and
- Euthanasia or Physician-Assisted Suicide

You will review **Biblical Texts** and **Christian philosophies** promoting nonviolent social change and be **asked to decided whether or not you agree with them** and/or their application in our world today. Take this opportunity to be honest with yourself. Your decision is entirely a private matter between you and God and should be based upon what you believe in your heart to be true.

It is my prayer that God uses this workshop to bless your heart with **His wisdom, strength and courage**.



LAYING THE FOUNDATION

Obeying Governmental Authorities

Let's be clear, **Romans 13:1-7**, **1st Peter 2:11-17**, and **Titus 3:1** clearly teaches that the believer has a biblical responsibility to submit to and obey the governing authorities.

Are There Exceptions?

Yes, the Bible teaches it is right (i.e., the duty of the believer) to break man's law when **two (2) requirements** have been met.

Biblical Requirements for Non-Violent Civil Disobedience:

1. There is a **direct, specific conflict between God's law and man's law.**
2. The believer must be willing to **pay the normal, natural consequences** of their disobedience.



LAYING THE FOUNDATION

Old Testament Examples:

Exodus 1 and 2, when Pharaoh commanded the **Hebrew midwives** to kill all male Hebrew babies, they lied to Pharaoh and did not carry out his command.

Daniel 3, for example, **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego** refused to bow down to the golden image and were cast into the burning fiery furnace.

Daniel 6 the vice-regents and governors had King Darius make a decree that no one could make a petition to any god or man for thirty days. **Daniel** nevertheless continued to pray to God three (3) times a day and was cast into the lion's den to be eaten.

New Testament Examples:

New Testament can be found in **Acts 4 and 5**. When **Peter and John** were commanded not to preach the gospel, their response was, "We must obey God rather than men" (**Acts 5:17,18;29**).



LAYING THE FOUNDATION



Other Examples:

1st Samuel 14:24-30: The **soldiers** of Israel refuse to kill Jonathan after King Saul's strange command.

Esther 1:10-12: **Queen Vashti** refuses to show her beauty to King Ahasuerus' drunken friends. (**Proverbs 31:30; 2nd Chronicles 28:19; 1st Timothy 2:9; 2nd Timothy 3:6**)

1st Kings 18:4: When Jezebel cut off the prophets, **Obadiah** used Biblically Based "Non-Violent" Civil Disobedience to save the lives of 150 prophets.

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LAYING THE FOUNDATION



Questions:

1. If we confess that God is not the final authority in our lives, are we confessing that Caesar is Lord?
2. If there is never a time when a Christian would practice Biblically-Based "Non-Violent" Civil Disobedience, then has the state become our Lord?
3. Is there room in your theology for Biblically-Based "Non-Violent Civil Disobedience?"

Are You Ready for the Test?

I hope there is room in your theology for Biblically-Based "Non-Violent Civil Disobedience.

Let's take the test and see.

SIX PRINCIPLES OF NONVIOLENCE

Fundamental tenets of **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s** philosophy of nonviolence described in his first book: “Stride Toward Freedom”.



The Six Principles Include:

1. Nonviolence is not passive, but requires courage.
2. Nonviolence seeks reconciliation, not defeat of an adversary.
3. Nonviolent action is directed at eliminating evil, not destroying an evil-doer.
4. A willingness to accept suffering for the cause, if necessary, but never to inflict it.
5. A rejection of hatred, animosity or violence of the spirit, as well as refusal to commit physical violence; and
6. Faith that justice will prevail.

I Agree

I Do Not Agree

SIX STEPS OF NONVIOLENT SOCIAL CHANGE

A sequential process of nonviolent conflict-resolution and social change based on **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s** teachings.



The Six Steps Of Nonviolent Social Change:

1. Information gathering and research to get the facts straight.
2. Education of adversaries and the public about the facts of the dispute.
3. Personal Commitment to nonviolent attitudes and action.
4. Negotiation with adversary in a spirit of goodwill to correct injustice.
5. Nonviolent direct action, such as marches, boycotts, mass demonstrations, picketing, sit-ins etc., to help persuade or compel adversary to work toward dispute-resolution.
6. Reconciliation of adversaries in a win-win outcome in establishing a sense of community.

I Agree

I Do Not Agree

MOHANDAS K. GANDHI

(1869-1948) Leader of India's nonviolent independence movement, who forced the British to quit [withdraw from] India.

Dr. King studied Gandhi's successful campaigns and adapted some of Gandhi's strategies in the American Civil Rights Movement.

As Dr. King said of the role of Gandhi's teachings in the Civil Rights Movement, Christ furnished the spirit and motivation, while Gandhi furnished the method.

Dr. King said Gandhi was the guiding light of our technique for nonviolent social change.

I Agree

I Do Not Agree



NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION

In his Letter from A Birmingham Jail, Dr. King said:

“Nonviolent direct action seeks to create such a crisis and establish such creative tension that a community that has constantly refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue.

I must confess that I am not afraid of the word, tension. I have earnestly worked and preached against violent tension, but there is a type of constructive tension that is necessary for growth.

The purpose of direct action is to create a situation so crisis-packed that it will inevitably open the door to negotiation.”

I Agree

I Do Not Agree



LAWS: JUST VS. UNJUST

A distinction made in deciding to engage in civil disobedience. A just law is created by both a majority and minority, and is binding on both.

An unjust law is created by a majority that is binding on the minority, when the minority has no voice in creating the law.

Dr. King said: “A just law is a man-made code that squares with moral law or the law of God. An unjust law is a code that is out of harmony with moral law.”

One who breaks an unjust law must do so openly, lovingly and with a willingness to accept the penalty.

I Agree

I Do Not Agree





CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

The act of openly disobeying an unjust, immoral or unconstitutional law as a matter of conscience, and accepting the consequences, including submitting to imprisonment if necessary, to protest an injustice.

REDEMPTIVE SUFFERING

A willingness to accept suffering without seeking revenge or retribution. When an individual or group experiences injustice and abuse for a good cause, it will help produce a greater good.

I Agree

I Do Not Agree

INJUSTICE

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” Samuel Johnson (English Poet, Critic and Writer, 1709-1784) and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Letter from Birmingham Jail, April 16, 1963.

THE MEASURE OF A MAN

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Strength to Love, 1963



I Agree

I Do Not Agree

COWARDICE

“Cowardice asks the question - is it safe?
Expediency asks the question - is it politic[al]?
Vanity asks the question - is it popular?
But conscience asks the question - is it right?

And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic[al], nor popular; but one must take it because it is right.”
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

SILENCE

“In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

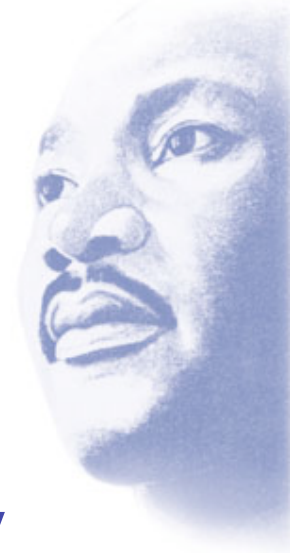


I Agree

I Do Not Agree

LETTER FROM BIRMINGHAM JAIL

“You express a great deal of anxiety over our willingness to break laws. This is certainly a legitimate concern. Since we so diligently urge people to obey the Supreme Court's decision of 1954 outlawing segregation in the public schools, at first glance it may seem rather paradoxical for us consciously to break laws. One may well ask: 'How can you advocate breaking some laws and obeying others?' The answer lies in the fact that there are two types of laws: just and unjust. I would be the first to advocate obeying just laws. One has not only a legal but a moral responsibility to obey just laws. Conversely, one has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws. I would agree with St. Augustine that ‘an unjust law is no law at all.’” - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., April 16, 1963



I Agree

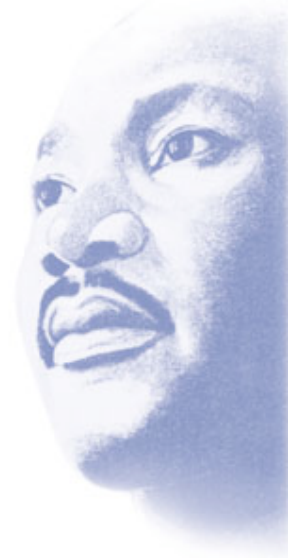
I Do Not Agree

ABORTION

“My uncle (Martin Luther King, Jr.) ... once said, ‘The Negro cannot win as long as he is willing to sacrifice the lives of his children for comfort and safety.’”

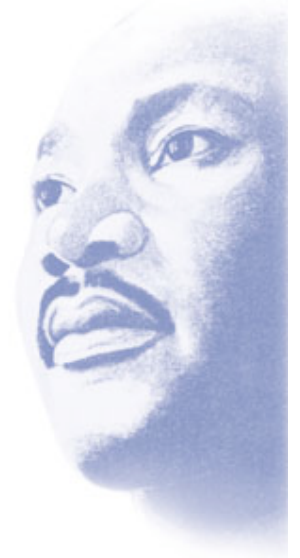
- Dr. Alveda C. King

- Every **72 Seconds** a Black Baby Is Aborted.
- According to Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI) African-Americans account for **37% of all abortions** in the USA.
- According to the 2006 U.S. Census African-Americans are **below the replacement level**.
- From 1882 to 1968 (i.e., 86 years) the Klu Klux Klan (KKK) **lynched 3,446 Negroes**. Abortion surpasses that number in less than three (3) days.



CASE STUDY

Oakland, California “Bubble Law”



- ✓ Harassment Is Redefined
- ✓ The Law Does not apply to everyone
- ✓ Proposed Law Initially Opposed By Union (S.E.I.U.)
- ✓ Proposed Law Enacted: Tuesday, January 15th, 2008
- ✓ Arrested: Tuesday, May 13th, 2009
- ✓ Restraining Order Imposed at Arraignment
- ✓ Criminal Case Without a Victim (Misdemeanor)
- ✓ Facing 4 Counts (Up To 4 years in Jail and \$8k In Fines)
- ✓ Pro-Choice Jury (Out Of 200 Potential Jurors 3 were Pro-Life)
- ✓ Four (4) Hours of Video - <http://www.issues4life.org/video.html>
- ✓ Executive Director Testimony Impeached
- ✓ Abortion Clinic Escort Testimony
- ✓ Convicted: Thursday, January 15th, 2009
- ✓ Sentenced Twice (February 19th and March 20th, 2009)
- ✓ Rejected All Terms Of Probation And The Payment Of All Fines
- ✓ Nineteen (19) Days Served In Jail (Santa Rita County Jail)
- ✓ Double Jeopardy (**See June 19th, 2009 LifeNews.Com Article**)

CASE DISCUSSION

Oakland, California “Bubble Law”

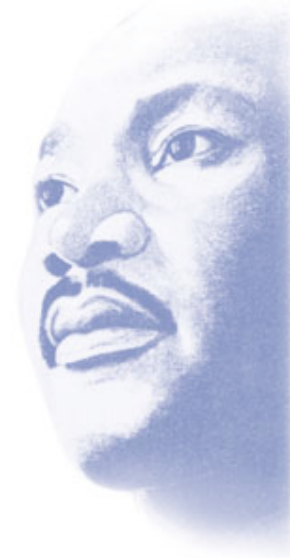
1. Should Christians oppose unjust laws?
2. If yes, when or at what point should Christians oppose unjust laws?
3. Is Biblically-Based Nonviolent Civil Disobedience the right way to oppose unjust laws?

WALTER B. HOYE II

Christianity becomes real when material comfort contends with moral conviction and loses. (Acts 21:10-14; Philippians 2:5-8; Jude 1:3)

I Agree

I Do Not Agree



WORKSHOP SCORING

For every slide you checked “I AGREE” please add one (1) point toward your total score.

0-5: You are NOT READY to publicly stand against injustice for Christ’s sake. You need to develop a nonviolent frame of mind (**Philippians 2:5-8**) as described in the "Six Principles of Nonviolence".

6-8: CLOSER, EVEN AT THE DOOR. But you lack the spiritual and psychological mindset required to publicly participate in nonviolent action to eliminate an injustice. Prayer, meditation and sometimes fasting are used to deepen one’s spiritual understanding. (**Acts 21:10-14**)

9-10: You are READY to convert your convictions into action and take a public stand for Christ’s sake.



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