

# ***Peace and Nonresistance: History and Just War***

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Notetaking Outline

1. The church and war in church history
  - a. The early church prior to 174 AD
  
  - b. The early church: 174-313 AD
    - i. Tertullian opposed the development of Christians in the Roman army
  
    - ii. Origen (250 AD) “Christians are of greater value to the empire through their prayers than in serving as soldiers.”
  
    - iii. Cyprian (258 AD) “Christians are not allowed to kill”
  
  - c. The church after 313 AD
    - i. Constantine
  
    - ii. Augustine
  
2. The just war alternative – assumptions which are the foundations of this view
  - a. Not all evil can be avoided
  
  - b. The goal is an ideal that is normative for all people
  
  - c. Just war theory does not try to justify war
  
  - d. Private individuals have no right to use force

3. Just war theory according to Arthur Holmes
  - a. It's components
    - i. Just cause – only a defensive war is legitimate
    - ii. Just intention – a just peace for all involved
    - iii. Last resort – all negotiations have failed
    - iv. Formal declaration – the prerogative of governments
    - v. Limited objectives – not unconditional surrender
    - vi. Proportionate means – not total war
    - vii. Noncombatant immunity – no civilians or POWs
  - b. The Biblical data
    - i. The central scripture Romans 13: 1-7
    - ii. The key claims
      1. The use of force is entrusted to governments
      2. Believers in both OT and NT were involved in government
      3. The use of government force is drastically limited
      4. Vengeance is ruled out
    - iii. Important distinctions
      1. The relationship of the two testaments
        - a. Nonresistance – law of love supersedes old

b. Just war – love in harmony with justice

2. The relationship of the Christian and the state

a. Nonresistance – two kingdoms

b. Just war – spiritual pervades political

c. Early sources

i. Greco-Roman philosophy

ii. Christian theology: Augustine

4. Conclusions

The conceptual difficulty with the theory itself and application to specific cases