

PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

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In a world that all too often uses violence to resolve conflict, Jesus left us with these words. Blessed are the peacemakers ... what do these words mean for Christian living? What do these words mean for Christian vocation? If Christians take seriously Jesus is a model for how they live their life, then what types of jobs and career are appropriate? We are now a part of a global community where what we do in our daily lives impacts others around the world. What one decides to do for a living can have implications for the entire global society. So, what will you do?

When most people think about the meaning of peace, they think along the lines of the absence of war. But there is actually much more to it than that. Peace studies courses on a graduate level elaborate on that limited definition of peace to include the welfare and quality of living of humanity, as well as the resolution of conflicts between entities with strained relationships. Peace studies curriculums are integral in today's world of growing globalization and the increasingly serious consequences of war.

For me the essence of the word peace was present to every individual living in this world, from the time they were born till the very moment of their lives. Peace was within us always as we make our daily contributions to earth. Thus, we are certainly unique in every aspect and so as to our uniqueness we encounter problems and experience difficulties. Through the word "unique" we are departed with price. Therefore the word peace is unbearable to those people who do not appreciate it. Due to our pride and other hindrances that we experience we are uncertain of how to achieve peace.

Philippines were one great country, with loving people having a humble definition in life. But despite those optimistic views we are thirsty of peace of nation. There were problems and misunderstandings.

Peace and Human rights come along hand in hand. They say in order to achieve a nationwide peace and harmony we must begin it in ourselves, and yes it is the reality, but for the fact that we ourselves was uneager to give up peace from our inner selves, we are experiencing problems.

The Philippines is experiencing human right difficulties in some other ways unable to meet the true meaning of peace.

They say human rights were just for the fortunate for those who has the power, for those people who were having wealth in life. Sad to say it was true ... from the time of our great hero Dr. Jose P. Rizal until this very moment. But as young citizen of this country, we could make change, like the principles of Rizal and many other heroes as the saying goes nothing in this world is permanent except for the word change. The questions were, are we going to go with the flow? Are we going to give up our dignity? Definitely, No! Dignity is all we have if we let those highly powerful individuals control us. Then, what is the essence of Democracy, where was the essence of Independence that has been fought for many decades. Let us use it for the better and not for the worst.

For the sake of our motherland and for the contribution of our heroes we should exercise our rights for the better in order to attain peace. We must contribute on how to our life easier.

Let us find creative ways to increase participation in the human rights movement, and to expand access to the benefits of a human rights framework. By exploring the relationship between human rights groups and peace groups in different settings, this issue seeks to shed light on the barriers to the integration of human rights into peace work and on the means to overcome those barriers. Contributors provide insights into the interaction between human rights and peace groups in the countries.

Conflict resolves are characterized as willing to compromise rights or avoid sensitive discussions of abuses altogether to satisfy the interest of the parties and secure a political deal; human rights advocates are seen as idealistic and uncompromising in seeking redress for individual violations, even at the cost of prolonging conflict. In at least some cases, these stereotypes are expressions of a fundamental clash between the human rights groups' principled, legalistic, rights-based approach to resolving conflict and the more pragmatic and cooperative interest-based approach taken by peace groups.

In general, contributors agree that there needs to be better coordination between peace groups and human rights groups. Peace workers have to be willing and able to design intervention strategies that ultimately promote human rights standards. Human rights workers need to learn conflict management skills in order to address community demands and communicate effectively the relevance of human rights to the parties in conflict.

Perhaps for our country our Philippine Constitution elaborates us on how to satisfactorily enjoy life to the fullest. Restrictions are always present, but with proper dealings and some sort of understanding the content, we could have a peaceful community.

Today in our daily lives we are experiencing some kind of a crisis. But knowing the Filipinos they could manage it.

We must be positive enough to handle it; misconceptions could be entertained for the better. But for those who does not result of robbery, kidnapping, and many violent activities, let us be part of the new beginning many things one can do with Peace. Let us be an advocate for everyone be part of a study to achieve peace Five basic areas people with Peace Studies degrees choose to locate careers in are: mediation/conflict management, teaching, ministry, social services and politics. Mediators and conflict managers work with individuals, groups, and even countries that are in conflict to reach win-win agreements. People with Peace Studies degrees can work as mediators and conflict managers in personnel departments, mediation centers, the government and in diplomatic relations.

"We must never delude ourselves, or let others pretend, that peace is merely the absence of war or some exalted state of impassivity," he added." World peace will only be achieved through active resistance to all that negates and diminishes human dignity, and waging peace, is therefore, eminently political and oftentimes provocative."

Within the peace movement there is a growing consciousness of the close connection between peace and human rights. Many experiences in recent years prove that the goals of peace initiatives depend upon the implementation of basic democratic rights and freedoms. There is a tense continuation of the arms build-up in both political blocs, negotiations are being held behind closed doors, and peace movement activists are being prosecuted and sometimes criminalized, without any regard for those affected. As far as these practices are concerned, the "Western democracies" are right up there with our governing leaders. That's the state of our experience - we didn't know how to deal with it. We have yet to do any real work in the area of human rights,

aside from reacting to isolated cases and spontaneously expressing concern. Last summer, people in various Berlin peace circles proposed the organization of a human rights seminar. At the first meeting, common experiences were to be discussed, ways of working on human rights issues reviewed, and contacts made.

This situation did not relieve us of our responsibility to organize a human rights seminar and to do further work in this area. In the preparation committee, additional agenda points were discussed and devised; working groups were formed to address them. In these groups, members of different church and autonomous peace groups worked together.

While some dictionaries define the word right as "a privilege," when used in the context of "human rights," we are talking about something more basic. Every person is entitled to certain fundamental rights, simply by the fact of being human. These are called "human rights," rather than a privilege, which can be taken away at someone's whim. Every person is entitled to certain rights—simply by the fact that they are a human being. They are "rights" because they are things you are allowed to be, to do or to have. These rights are there for your protection against people who might want to harm or hurt you. They are also there to help us get along with each other and live in peace. Many people know something about their rights. Generally they know they have the right to food and a safe place to stay. They know they have a right to be paid for the work they do. But there are many other rights. When human rights are not well known by people, abuses such as discrimination, intolerance, injustice, oppression and slavery can arise. Born out of the atrocities and enormous loss of life during World War II, the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed in 1948 to provide a common understanding of what everyone's rights are. It forms the basis for a world built on freedom, justice and peace.

For us students we must involve in peace studies courses explore the theories and practices of peace and justice throughout history. They also investigate the nature of peace, freedom, justice and war. Peace studies curriculums aim to equip students with the ability to contribute to establishing conditions that promote peace and human welfare across the world. Peace studies curriculums integrate numerous different study fields, including international affairs, government, humanities, psychology, political science, economics and theology. Philosophy, literature, women's studies and minority studies are also some possible peace studies courses. Much of the peace studies curriculum will challenge students to pose questions regarding peace, justice, war, and international laws and relationships.

Let us all begin the word peace and human rights with a smile to every individual we meet, either they are known to us or not. Let us be an example to those who needs peace.