

## Article 13: Love and Nonresistance (Current Version)

### God's Community of Peace

We believe that God in Christ reconciles people to himself and to one another, making peace through the cross. The church is a fellowship of redeemed people living by love. Our bond with other believers of Jesus transcends all racial, social, and national barriers.

### Christian Peacemaking

Believers seek to be agents of reconciliation in all relationships, to practice love of enemies as taught by Christ, and to be peacemakers in all situations. We view violence in its many different forms as contradictory to the new nature of the Christian. We believe that the evil and inhumane nature of violence is contrary to the gospel of love and peace. In times of national conscription or war, we believe we are called to give alternative service where possible. Alleviating suffering, reducing strife, and promoting justice are ways of demonstrating Christ's love.

Exodus 20:1-17; Matthew 5:17-28,38-48; Romans 12:9-21; 13:8-10; 1 Peter 2:19-23

Draft names actual topic (peacemaking) and avoids "nonresistance" (which is wrong word)

Same title

Draft slightly improves wording

Same title

**Yellow:** Draft is a far stronger commitment.  
**Green:** Draft adds Christ's example (crucial); puts love of enemies into context of larger love command; specifies "all situations" so as to make peacemaking far more wholistic.  
**Blue:** Current version raises unnecessary questions about the "violence of God"; rules out all "limited protective violence" (not only lethal violence) in principle. Draft makes explicit that wholistic peacemaking (see green) includes (but is not limited to) working to end violence and war.  
**Gray:** *Explicit wording* of current version makes it irrelevant today (no national conscription); no clear meaning to "where possible"; *implied meaning* expresses what half of US MB's believe. Draft is honest about the reality of our denomination's actual beliefs; claims Peace Church identification; provides basis for our discernment and choices.  
**Red:** Draft commits us to this rather than just saying what these things do.

Texts: Draft adds important verses.

## Article 13: Love, Peacemaking and Reconciliation (Recommended)

### God's Community of Peace

We believe that God in Christ reconciles people to Himself and to one another, making peace through the cross. The church is the fellowship of redeemed people living by love. The bond between followers of Jesus transcends all racial, social and national barriers.

### Christian Peacemaking

We actively pursue peace and reconciliation in all relationships by following Christ's example and His command to love God, neighbors and even enemies. We strive to be peacemakers and agents of reconciliation in families, churches, communities, in our nation, and throughout the world.

As peacemakers we alleviate suffering, reduce strife, promote justice, and work to end violence and war, that others may see a demonstration of Christ's love. As in other Peace Churches many of us choose not to participate in the military, but rather in alternative forms of service.

Because Jesus is Lord, His example and teaching take priority over nationalism and the demands of human authorities.

Exodus 20:1-17; Jeremiah 29:7; Matthew 5:9,17-26, 38-48; Romans 12:9-21; 13:8-10; 2 Corinthians 5:15-20; Ephesians 2:14-18; 1 Peter 2:19-23