

## **Friends Peace Testimony**

(Approved by North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative), 8/25/1943)

Friends refuse to take part in war because we are convinced by the light and Spirit of Christ, the Prince of Peace, that war is wrong, and the faithful among us, as George Fox says, "Lived in the virtue of that life and power that took away the occasion of all wars," even the lusts of the flesh from which springs all wrath, strife, seditions, enoyings [sic], hatred and murder, and by living in obedience to the Spirit of Christ, they brought forth the fruits of the Spirit, which are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance, which is in direct opposition to all wars.

Friends can never hurt or kill their enemies, because Christ's command is "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that despitefully use you or persecute you, that you may be the children of your Father which is in Heaven." And, "Ye have heard it said, and eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth, but I say unto you, resist not evil." He also commands, "Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so to them," which certainly will stop war. When Peter used the sword Christ told him to put it back in its place, "for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword." Friends believe they must obey the admonitions of the Apostles, to "Live in Peace, and the God of love and peace shall be with you." "Render unto no man evil for evil." "Let all bitterness and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice." "If thine enemy hunger feed him. If he thirst give him drink." "Overcome evil with good."

Friends refuse to take human life because it is forbidden in the Ten Commandments. "Thou shalt not kill," they believe to be just as binding upon a company of men, no matter how large, as it is upon a single individual.

Friends refuse to become soldiers because we feel we must retain freedom of conscience, a liberty to do the things we are convinced it is right for us to do at all times. This a soldier cannot do as he must obey orders, or be punished no matter how wicked he feels the deed to be. Every individual is responsible to God and this responsibility cannot be shifted upon those in authority."