

Why "resistance" bible study

Seek Guidance From the Bible

Christianity is reflected in American culture in profound ways. So the ways we interpret the Bible have serious political consequences. Here we'll look fearlessly and critically at both the Bible and the daily news, and prayerfully seek guidance for our activism to preserve our endangered freedoms.

Christianity Is Part of the Problem

But it is also part of the solution. Faithfully following Jesus' law of love inspires us to stand up for full LGBTQ equality, civil rights, immigrant rights, women's rights, environmental protection, and robust social insurance and universal health coverage for all - especially for the most vulnerable of our fellow citizens. Studying the historical roots of the Bible, without super-naturalistic presumptions, primes us to promote scientific and social progress and fact-based, compassionate public policies.

RESISTANCE

Definition and Context:

Resistance, in a biblical context, refers to the act of opposing or withstanding forces, influences, or authorities that are contrary to God's will and purposes. It can manifest in various forms, including spiritual, moral, and physical resistance. The Bible provides numerous examples and teachings on when and how resistance is appropriate for believers.

Biblical Examples of Resistance:

1. Spiritual Resistance:

Believers are called to resist spiritual forces of evil. [Ephesians 6:11-13](#) instructs Christians to "put on the full armor of God, so that you can make your stand against the devil's schemes." This passage emphasizes the need for spiritual preparedness and reliance on God's strength to resist temptation and evil.

2. Moral Resistance:

The Bible encourages believers to resist conforming to worldly values that contradict God's commandments. [Romans 12:2](#) advises, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." This resistance involves a commitment to living according to God's standards rather than societal pressures.

3. Physical Resistance:

There are instances in Scripture where physical resistance is demonstrated. In the Old Testament, the Israelites resisted oppressive rulers and nations under God's guidance. For example, the account of the Exodus depicts Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt, resisting Pharaoh's oppressive regime (Exodus 5-14).

4. Civil Disobedience:

[Acts 5:29](#) provides an example of civil disobedience when Peter and the apostles declare, "We must obey God rather than men." This statement was made in response to being ordered by the authorities to stop teaching in the name of Jesus. It highlights the principle that obedience to God takes precedence over human laws when the two are in conflict.

Theological Insights:

· Resisting Sin:

[James 4:7](#) instructs, "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." This verse underscores the importance of submission to God as a foundation for resisting sin and temptation. It assures believers that resistance, when rooted in God's power, is effective.

· The Role of the Holy Spirit:

The Holy Spirit empowers believers to resist sin and live righteously. [Galatians 5:16-17](#) states, "Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh craves what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh." This passage highlights the internal struggle and the Spirit's role in enabling resistance.

· Perseverance in Resistance:

The Bible encourages perseverance in the face of opposition. [Hebrews 12:3-4](#) reminds believers to "consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." This exhortation points to Jesus as the ultimate example of enduring resistance against sin and hostility.

Practical Application:

· Discernment in Resistance:

Believers are called to exercise discernment in knowing when and how to resist. Not all resistance is justified, and it must align with biblical principles. Prayer, study of Scripture, and seeking godly counsel are essential in making wise decisions about resistance.

· Peaceful Resistance:

While resistance is sometimes necessary, the Bible also advocates for peace and reconciliation. [Romans 12:18](#) advises, "If it is possible on your part, live at peace with everyone." This balance requires wisdom to know when to stand firm and when to pursue peace.

· Community Support:

Engaging in resistance often requires the support and encouragement of a faith community. Believers are encouraged to bear one another's burdens ([Galatians 6:2](#)) and to stand together in spiritual battles ([Ephesians 6:18](#)).

In summary, resistance in the Bible is a multifaceted concept that involves standing against evil, sin, and injustice while being guided by God's Word and Spirit. It requires wisdom, courage, and a commitment to God's truth and righteousness.

Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary

1. (*n.*) The quality of not yielding to force or external pressure; that power of a body which acts in opposition to the impulse or pressure of another, or which prevents the effect of another power; as, the resistance of the air to a body passing through it; the resistance of a target to projectiles.
2. (*n.*) The act of resisting; opposition, passive or active.
3. (*n.*) A means or method of resisting; that which resists.
4. (*n.*) A certain hindrance or opposition to the passage of an electrical current or discharge offered by conducting bodies. It bears an inverse relation to the conductivity, -- good conductors having a small resistance, while poor conductors or insulators have a very high resistance. The unit of resistance is the ohm.

resources - books & organizations

An Other Kingdom: Departing the Consumer Culture by Peter Block, Walter Brueggemann, and John McKnight

[*An Other Kingdom*](#) takes us out of a culture of addictive consumption into a place where life is ours to create together. This satisfying way depends upon a neighborly covenant—an agreement that we together, will better raise our children, be healthy, be connected, be safe, and provide a livelihood. The neighborly covenant has a different language than market-hype. It speaks instead in a sacred tongue.

Burying White Privilege: Resurrecting A Badass Christianity by Miguel de la Torre

In [*Burying White Privilege*](#) De La Torre argues that centuries of oppression and greed have effectively ruined evangelical Christianity in the United States. The silence concerning—if not the doctrinal justification of—racism, classism, sexism, and homophobia has made white Christianity satanic. Prophetically calling Christian nationalists to repentance, De La Torre rescues the biblical Christ from the distorted Christ of white Christian imagination.

How To Be An Anti-Racist by Ibram X. Kendi

[*Ibram X. Kendi's*](#) concept of antiracism reenergizes and reshapes the conversation about racial justice in America--but even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other.

"White Fragility: Why It's So Hard For White People To Talk About Racism" by Robin Diangelo

[*White Fragility*](#) is a state in which even a minimum amount of racial stress becomes intolerable,

"The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration In The Age Of Colorblindness" by Michelle Alexander

[*The New Jim Crow*](#) is a stunning account of the rebirth of a caste-like system in the United States that has resulted in millions of African Americans locked behind bars and then relegated to a permanent second-class status.

"Jesus And The Disinherited" by Howard Thurman

The acclaimed theologian and religious leader Howard Thurman (1900-1981) demonstrates in [*Jesus Disinherited*](#) how the gospel may be read as a manual of resistance for the poor and disenfranchised.

"Rebuilding the Foundations: Social Relationships in Ancient Scripture and Contemporary Culture" by Walter Brueggemann

[*Rebuilding the Foundations*](#) demonstrates the social relevance of profound biblical scholarship

The Poor Peoples Campaign

Today, [*the Poor People's Campaign*](#): A National Call for Moral Revival has picked up Rev. Martin Luther King's unfinished work. People are coming together to confront the interlocking evils of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, militarism and the war economy, and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism.

Progressive Christianity

[*Progressive Christianity*](#) is an open, intelligent and collaborative approach to the Christian tradition and the life and teachings of Jesus that create pathways into an authentic and relevant religious experience.

Some web sources for resistance

<https://biblehub.com/topical/r/resistance.htm>

<https://westminsterdc.org/resources>

<https://westminsterdc.org/resistance-bible-study-1>

<https://tcpc.blogs.com/musings/2017/09/resistance-bible-study.html>

<file:///C:/Users/sylvi/OneDrive/Documents/Downloads/Open%20Transcript.pdf>