

June 4, 2004  
West Milton, Ohio

## Statement of the Position of The Church of God on War and Violence

Considering the troubled international situation presently faced, we, the General Ministerial Body of The Church of God, feel led of God to again proclaim the church's position in regard to participation in war and violence.

The following was reaffirmed and adopted on June 4, 2004, and reads as follows:

The Holy Bible teaches us that our first duty is to God, namely, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength,..." and the second is like unto this, "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

Jesus taught His followers to love their enemies, do good to them that hate you and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you that you may be the children of your Father which is in heaven. (Matt. 5:39, 44-45)

There are many other scriptures such as John 18:36; Matt. 26:52; Rom. 12:14, 17, 19-21; Luke 6:31, which definitely forbid us to take up arms to fight or defend ourselves; and because of the teaching of such scriptures, we are also conscientiously opposed to accepting non-combatant military service in warfare or to work in any factory or plant which is directly engaged in producing instruments and/or munitions for the destruction of human life and happiness.

We, the undersigned, as members of the General Ministerial Body of The Church of God, are conscientiously opposed to participation in war in any form at any time, whether civil, political, or religious.

We are conscientiously opposed to the purchase of defense or war bonds and stamps for the prosecution of war.

We, The Church of God, are in all things willing to live honestly, believing that our governments are ordained of God, and we are praying for our leaders and for all that are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness.

We concur that this has been the position of The Church of God since its founding in 30 A.D. and through the more recent reformation of 1880.

The above statement is and adopted and uniform teaching and practice of The Church of God, a copy of which is on file at the Gospel Trumpet Office.