



# ‘Blow them all away in the name of the Lord.’

—Jerry Falwell

“But you’ve got to kill the terrorists before the killing stops. And I’m for the president to chase them all over the world. If it takes 10 years, blow them all away in the name of the Lord.”—Jerry Falwell, *CNN Late Edition*, October 24, 2004

## 200 Christian Leaders Condemn a ‘Theology of War’

In their statement “Confessing Christ in a World of Violence,” more than 200 theologians and ethicists—many from leading evangelical institutions—wrote:

**“A ‘theology of war,’ emanating from the highest circles of American government, is seeping into our churches as well.... The roles of God, church, and nation are confused by talk of an American ‘mission’ and ‘divine appointment’ to ‘rid the world of evil.’”**

They continued: “In this time of crisis, we need a new confession of Christ.”

- Jesus Christ knows no national boundaries.
- Christ commits Christians to a strong presumption against war. Christians have a responsibility to count the cost, speak out for the victims, and explore every alternative before a nation goes to war.
- Christ commands us to see not only the splinter in our adversary’s eye, but also the beam in our own.
- Christ shows us that love of enemy is the heart of the gospel.
- Christ teaches us that humility is the virtue befitting forgiven sinners.
- We reject the false teaching that a war on terrorism takes precedence over ethical and legal norms.
- We reject the false teaching that America is a “Christian nation,” representing only virtue, while its adversaries are nothing but vicious.
- We reject the false teaching that any human being can be defined as outside the law’s protection, and the demonization of perceived enemies, which only paves the way to abuse.
- We reject the false teaching that those who are not for the United States politically are against it or that those who fundamentally question American policies must be with the “evil-doers.”

Peacemaking is central to our vocation in a troubled world. We urge Christians and others to remember Jesus’ teachings in making their decisions as citizens.

**SIGNERS OF THE “CONFESSING CHRIST” STATEMENT INCLUDE** (*organizations for identification only*): Philip Amerson, Claremont School of Theology; Myron S. Augsburger, Eastern Mennonite University; Steven Bouma-Prediger, Hope College; James Buckley, Loyola College in Maryland; Tony Campolo, Eastern University; Shaun Casey, Wesley Theological Seminary; Mark A. Chancey, Southern Methodist University; Joan D. Chittister, OSB; Richard Crane, Messiah College; Derek H. Davis, Baylor University; James M. Dunn, Wake Forest University Divinity School; Gabriel Fackre, Andover Newton Theological School; Bruce N. Fisk, Westmont College; Ivy George, Gordon College; A. Katherine Grieb, Virginia Theological Seminary; Stanley Hauerwas, Duke Divinity School; Richard B. Hays, Duke Divinity School; Matthew Heun, Calvin College; Joseph C. Hough, Jr., Union Theological Seminary; Richard T. Hughes, Pepperdine University; George Hunsinger, Princeton Theological Seminary; J. Nelson Kraybill, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary; John Langan, SJ, Georgetown University; William J. Moulder, Trinity College; Nancy Murphy, Fuller Theological Seminary; John E. Phelan, Jr., North Park Theological Seminary; Richard V. Pierard, Gordon College; Caryn Riswold, Illinois College; Cheryl J. Sanders, Howard University; Helene Slessarev-Jamir, Wheaton College; Glen Stassen, Fuller Theological Seminary; Ronald F. Thiemann, Harvard Divinity School; Miroslav Volf, Yale University; Jim Wallis, Sojourners; Cornel West, Princeton University; Will Willimon, Duke Divinity School; Ben Witherington, Asbury Theological Seminary.

To see the full statement and complete list of signatories, visit [www.sojo.net](http://www.sojo.net).

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