

Towards Total Disarmament, World Peace, and Equal Prosperity: A Christian Perspective

by “A.I.” – Rev. Aston Ishing, D.Div.

Introduction

The angels announced at the coming of Messiah, “*Glory to God in the highest, Peace on Earth to all people of good will!*” (Luke 2:14). The call for total disarmament, world peace, and equal prosperity resonates deeply with Christian values, rooted in the teachings of love, compassion, and justice. The pursuit of these noble goals is not only a moral imperative but also a manifestation of the Christian duty to be peacemakers in the world. This essay explores the



vision of total disarmament, world peace, and equal prosperity from a Christian perspective, requiring a three-stage approach to achieving these ideals. Otherwise, we are on the brink of mutual annihilation.

Stage One: Spiritual Foundation

At the heart of Christianity lies the message of love and reconciliation, as exemplified by Jesus Christ. The first stage in the journey towards total disarmament, world peace, and equal prosperity must begin with a spiritual foundation. This foundation encompasses a profound transformation in individual and collective consciousness, fostering a sense of interconnectedness and shared responsibility for the well-being of all humanity, not only our own nation or ethnic group.

1.1. **Principles of Love and Forgiveness**

Christianity teaches the importance of love and forgiveness as foundational principles for harmonious living. Drawing from these principles, individuals and communities must cultivate a spirit of forgiveness, letting go of past grievances that fuel conflicts. This internal transformation paves the way for genuine

reconciliation and lays the groundwork for dismantling the barriers to world peace. As St. Peter stated on the Day of Pentecost, *“God has made Him both Lord and Messiah, this Yeshua whom you crucified. ... Therefore, repent and be baptized, everyone of you, in the name of Yeshua the Messiah for the forgiveness of sins.... They continued steadfastly in the Apostles' teaching and the communion, in the breaking of bread, and the prayers.... All who believed were together, and were having all things common”* (Acts 2:36, 38, 42, 44). Without repentance and internal transformation, all that follows is mere blather, the product of an overactive imagination. Also, notice that the people were added to the Church, the Body of Christ: we are to collectively incarnate Him in this world. Then we see that the people continued in the Apostolic teaching: the Apostles and their successors taught the right way to worship, the correct meaning of the Old Testament, then a few centuries later the New Testament as well. And they cared for one another: the Church is to be a caring community, the embodiment and foretaste of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

1.2. ****Cultivating Compassion and Empathy****

Compassion and empathy are central to the Christian worldview. Stage one involves cultivating these virtues on a global scale. By recognizing the inherent dignity of every living human being as created in God's image, individuals and nations can develop a deeper understanding of one another's struggles and aspirations. This empathetic connection serves as a powerful antidote to hostility and violence.

1.3. ****Promoting Justice and Equality****

The Christian call for justice and equality extends beyond individual actions to encompass societal structures. Stage one emphasizes the need for a just and equitable distribution of resources, addressing economic disparities that often underlie conflicts. As St. Paul stated in his sermon on Mars Hill, *“God made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the surface of the earth, having determined appointed seasons, and the boundaries of their dwellings, that they should seek the Lord, if perhaps they might reach out for him and find him”* (Acts 17:26-27). By promoting fairness and equitable sharing, not seizing others' land and property, societies can create conditions conducive to peace and shared prosperity.

Stage Two: Diplomacy and Disarmament

Having established a spiritual foundation, the second stage focuses on diplomatic efforts and disarmament initiatives aimed at dismantling the machinery of war and fostering a culture of peace.

2.1. **International Cooperation and Dialogue**

The Christian Church encourages believers to be peacemakers (Matthew 5:9), actively seeking to resolve conflicts through dialogue and cooperation, not aiding and abetting warfare. In this stage, nations must prioritize diplomatic solutions over military interventions. The establishment of international forums and platforms for dialogue becomes crucial, fostering understanding and collaboration among diverse nations.

2.2. **Arms Reduction and Disarmament Agreements**

A key component of achieving total disarmament is the gradual reduction of weapons of mass destruction and conventional arms. Nations, guided by Christian principles of justice and peace, should initiate and abide by disarmament agreements, ensuring transparency and accountability in the process. By dismantling the tools of war, nations demonstrate a commitment to the shared goal of global security.

2.3. **Peace Education and Cultural Exchange**

Education plays a pivotal role in shaping attitudes and perspectives. Stage two involves implementing peace education programs globally, fostering a culture that values dialogue, understanding, and conflict resolution. Additionally, cultural exchange initiatives can break down stereotypes and build bridges of understanding between nations, laying the groundwork for lasting peace.

Stage Three: Sustainable Development and Equal Prosperity

With a solid spiritual foundation and diplomatic efforts leading the way, and with the trillions of dollars currently being spent on weapons of destruction being redirected into methods of reconstruction, the third stage focuses on sustainable development and the pursuit of equal prosperity for all, especially the poor, orphans, elderly and the disabled, providing them adequate food, accessible housing and infrastructure: businesses, homes, schools, sidewalks, roads, and public transport should all be made accessible for them.

3.1. ****Environmental Stewardship****

Christianity teaches the concept of stewardship, emphasizing the responsibility of humanity to care for the Earth. Stage three involves a concerted effort towards sustainable development, recognizing the interconnectedness between environmental health and global peace. Nations must prioritize eco-friendly policies, ensuring the well-being of the planet for present and future generations.

3.2. ****Economic Justice and Poverty Alleviation****

A Christian perspective on equal prosperity demands a commitment to economic justice. Stage three calls for the eradication of extreme poverty through equitable economic policies, fair trade practices, and international collaboration. Addressing these disparities will contribute to a more stable, peaceful world.

3.3. ****Healthcare and Education for All****

Equal access to healthcare and education is fundamental to achieving equal prosperity. Christian values underscore the importance of caring for the vulnerable and ensuring opportunities for growth and development for all. In this stage, nations must invest in robust healthcare systems and accessible education, empowering individuals and communities to thrive.

Conclusion

Total disarmament, world peace, and equal prosperity represent an ambitious vision that aligns with Christian principles of inner transformation, love, forgiveness, justice, and compassion. *“For I, the Lord, do not change; therefore you, sons of Jacob, are not annihilated. From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my ordinances, and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of Hosts”* (Malachi 3:6-7). Return to God – repent – or be annihilated. The three-stage approach outlined in this essay underscores how these goals are interconnected, emphasizing the role of spiritual transformation, diplomacy, and sustainable development in their realization. Only when Christians embody Christ and His teachings, engaging in the pursuit of these ideals, will they fulfill the call to be ambassadors of peace and stewards of God's creation, working towards a world where swords are turned into plowshares and nations live in harmony. Time is short: we must take action now!