

# Quakers and Pacifism

Quakers are a denomination (group) of Christians.

Quakers believe the Bible is an inspiring book, but do not think that it is the word of God. They have few formal rules and no religious rituals. A Quaker 'service' will often consist of silent reflection.

Unlike other Christians, Quakers believe each individual will experience God differently through personal reflection. God will then act as a guiding light for that person. Quakers believe serving God in this life is the most important thing and some do not believe in an afterlife at all.

Though Quakers have few formal rules, they have one key belief that it is exceptionally important: they believe every person has the essence of God within them. Therefore, all people are equal and worthy of respect.

Quakers are against violence. Based on what you have read, give three detailed reasons why this is the case.

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# Answers

## Higher

Reasons could include:

- Though they do not believe the Bible is the word of God it is still an inspiring book and contains many anti-violence messages.
- There is not necessarily an afterlife so we must serve God in this world. This means it is important not to kill as this could extinguish a person's life completely.
- All people are equal and therefore no one should be subjected to violence.
- All people contain the essence of God and this should obviously not be harmed.
- The Quakers focus on silent reflection suggests they are aiming to be peaceful and calm.