

Website Introduction  
ValerieElvertonDixon.com  
JustPeaceTheory.com  
RadicalLoveTheory.com  
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My name is Valerie Elverton Dixon, and I study. I study: ethics, war and peace, womanist/feminist thought, deconstruction, and the civil rights movement. *I am tired of war.* I am tired of the idea that violence can be a just means to any end. War and violence are insane obscenities that humankind must reject. This web page is dedicated to the eradication of violence and war. It is dedicated to people all over the world who are working for peace.

I believe that the work of ridding humankind of war is not only a top down process where policy makers decide when and where to deploy armies, but it is the work of ordinary people deciding against fear, violence and violent retaliation. War is not a human necessity; it is not an outcome of human nature, if such a thing as human nature exists. It is the most blatant example of inhumanity, especially when we understand that our humanity derives from our right relationships with each other and with nature. War is unintelligent and a result of failed imagination, logic, politics, patience, communication and love. War demonstrates a lack of care.

In the writings that I will post on this site, I intend to address issues of just war, national security and defense, along with thoughts on current events and other random musings. I intend to theorize radical love, building upon the foundation laid by Jesus Christ.; I intend to build upon the just peace theories of Professor Glen Stassen and others.

My main point, however, is that we ought to challenge the status quo on issues of violence that keep taking us down the road to violent conflict. Each of us ought think and think again about ways to bring about peace, rejecting the paradoxical logic that says it is possible to get to peace through war.

Thus, my mission is to challenge common sense when common sense is wrong, to deconstruct tradition when tradition becomes oppressive, to open a space for re/creating our shared values and beliefs toward a common sense that sees peacemaking as wise and warfare as naive and foolish. I trust that you can use the ideas you find here to think through your own values and beliefs.

I confess I am a Christian trying every day to follow the teachings of Jesus. I think we ought to take seriously the prophetic command to do justice to the least among us. I am hopeful that whether you think Jesus an all too human teacher, a prophet of God or the son of God and savior of the Word, that you will find these ideas beneficial.

About the Unicorn "My horn you have exalted like a unicorn. I have been anointed with fresh

oil.” (Psalm 92:10)

In European medieval mythology, the unicorn is a beast that is strong and fierce. It can only be conquered by pure love.<sup>1</sup> It is a symbol of Christ in that its horn is a symbol of the horn of salvation. Its horn purifies poisoned water so that other animals can come and drink. I use the unicorn as a symbol for this website because it is a symbol of the power of radical love, the love that is a gift of the Divine to us, a gift that is an anointing, a gift that we are compelled to give to others and to the world.

I use three scriptures as the guiding principles for this website:

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you, not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. John 14:27

For we know in part and we prophesy in part. I Corinthians 13: 9

And now abides faith, hope, love, these three: but the greatest of these is love. I Corinthians 13:13

These particles of spiritual wisdom remind us that peace is possible. The first reminds us that peace begins inside each of us by choosing against anxiety and fear. This is a peace beyond anything that the world with its material and militant values can offer. The second reminds us to be humble about what we know. The best that we can do is to know in part. This means that we need to listen to other people because they have a piece of the truth that we do not have. It is all of us working together in a cooperative way that will get us to a place where we know enough to make peace. And the last reminds us that of the three virtues of faith, hope and love, that love is the most important. It is the most difficult. It leaves us vulnerable, exposed, weak. And it is in that vulnerability, in that weakness that God lives.

I am launching this website on September 14. It is my mother’s birthday. I want to honor her memory with this site. As Holy Spirit would have it, September 14 is also the date of the ground breaking for the United Nations building in New York City in 1948. In 1975 the first American saint, Ann Seton was canonized by Pope Paul VI. However, the most important significance of this day is its reference to the cross. For Roman Catholics, September 14 is Triumph of the Cross; for Eastern Orthodox, it is Exaltation of the Cross; in Protestantism it is Holy Cross Day.<sup>2</sup>

The story goes that these days commemorate the event of the mother of Constantine, Helena’s discovery of the original cross in 326 C.E. This date also commemorates the day that the Church of the Holy Sepulcher was dedicated in 335 C.E. So this day commemorates the cross. On this

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<sup>1</sup> “unicorn.” Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2007. Encyclopaedia Britannica Online. 5 September, 2007 <<http://www.Britannica.com/eb/article -9074248>>

<sup>2</sup>“September 14” Wikipedia 13, September, 2007  
<[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feast\\_of\\_the\\_Cross](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feast_of_the_Cross)>

website, I do not want to think about the cross in terms of triumph or of exaltation. I want to understand the cross as a symbol of radical love. It is the intersection of Love and Justice. The Love that comes from above, the Love that is the Divine, is the vertical axis and the Justice that Love commands is the horizontal axis. It is a symbol of sacrifice, of deep humility and dedication to live a life anointed with the oil of joy and the madness of Love. It is one of many symbols for peace.

Peace,  
Valerie

PS

On this site, I will post lectures, essays, and works of mourning, tributes to people who have been important to me and who have been gathered to the ancestors.