

FOR THE LOVE OF GOD + -

CATHOLIC VS PROTESTANT: THE TROUBLES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

This segment comes from **EPISODE 1: WAR + PEACE**.

From Jesus' command to "love your enemies" to the idea of "holy war" is a giant leap. Yet from the Old Testament through to the Crusades and the inquisitions, Christian history is full of violence. Has Christianity been a major contributor to war? How have the followers of a crucified leader managed to get things so wrong? This segment looks at the 30-year period known as the "Troubles" in Northern Ireland, and discusses the complicated ways in which religion was caught up in the conflict.



THEME QUESTIONS

1. How could religion be a powerful motivator for violence?
2. Why would religious people resort to violence?



ENGAGE

1. Describe your school house system.
 - a. How does your house system create a sense of belonging and inclusion?
 - b. How does it create a sense of us vs them conflict?
 - c. Imagine if another house sabotaged yours in a way that made you lose an important competition. Write a scenario that describes the possible escalation of events that could occur.
2. Find a recent news story about an act of violence where religion was involved.
3. What sort of event do you think of when you hear the title "The Troubles". Write a paragraph describing your imaginary historical event.

4. What observations can you make about these images of murals that depict something about the “Troubles” in Northern Ireland.



IMAGE: ‘Summer of 69 mural’ by Udri available at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/udri/14277608973> under a Creative Commons BY-NC-SA 2.0 Licence. Full terms at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/>.



5. Listen to the song “Sunday Bloody Sunday” by U2, and read the lyrics ([cpx.video/u2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cpx.video/u2)). What further insights does this give you about the experience of the “Troubles” in Northern Ireland?

UNDERSTAND AND EVALUATE

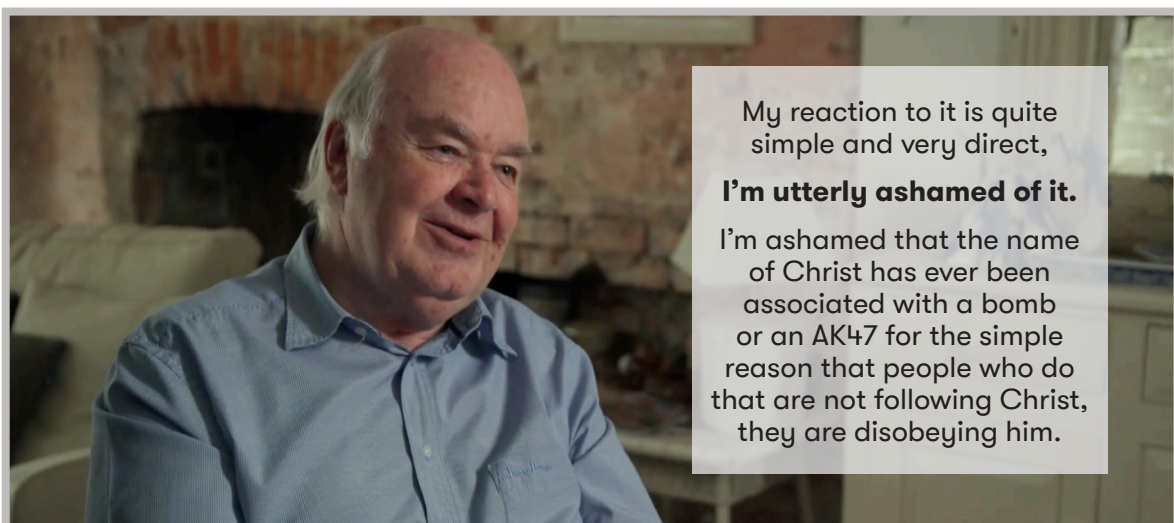


WATCH the segment: “Catholic vs Protestant: The Troubles of Northern Ireland”
(cpx.video/troubles)

1. Who were the two groups clashing in Northern Ireland and what did they want?

	Group 1	Group 2
Who they were		
What they wanted		

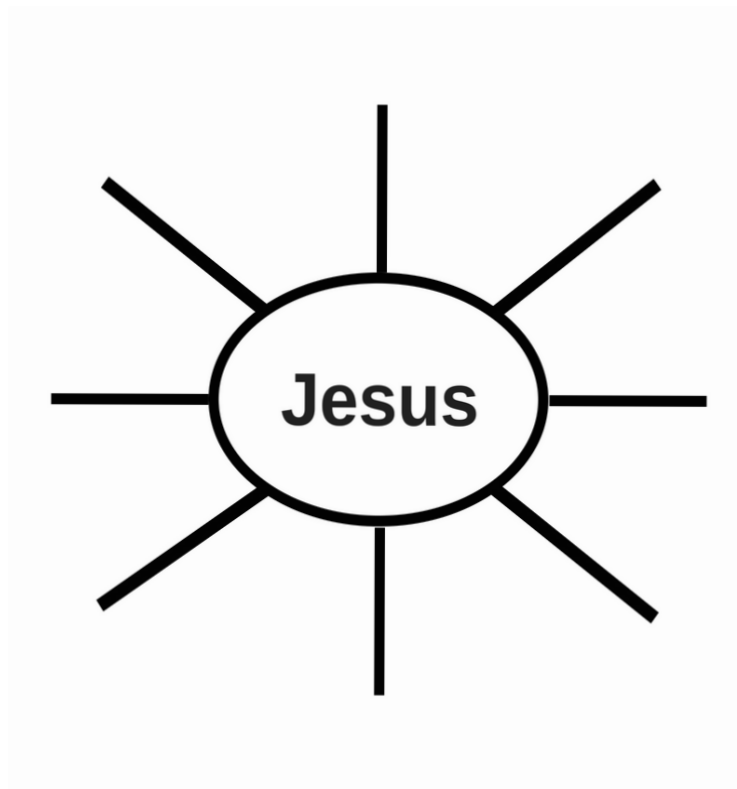
2. How was the childhood of Jim the taxi driver different to yours? What would it have been like to grow up with Jim’s concerns?
3. Jim argues that religion was “used too readily to cover this conflict”. What evidence does he give?
4. Rowan Williams says that turning a conflict that is mainly about something else into a religious conflict helps you reinforce your own righteousness. How was this true of the “Troubles”?
5. What is your reaction to this quote from John Lennox? Do you think Christians today should be ashamed of the “Troubles”?



BIBLE FOCUS

READ 1 Peter 3:8-12.

1. List three instructions given in this passage.
2. Why does Peter say these instructions are good to follow?
3. Identify how Jesus displayed the qualities and values in this passage, and write them on the mind map below.



4. In what ways do the values in this passage, and the actions of Jesus, contrast with the actions of those involved in the “Troubles”?

APPLY

1. Imagine you are John Lennox's parents just after their shop was bombed. Write an "open letter" on social media addressing those who bombed the shop. Draw on themes from 1 Peter 3:8-12.
2. Imagine you have been given the opportunity to paint your own wall mural in Belfast to encourage peace. Draw your mural, and explain how you chose your design.
3. Watch [this video \(cpx.video/syrianchildren\)](https://cpx.video/syrianchildren) comparing the biggest fears of children in Syria with those of their peers in relatively safe countries. What are the biggest differences?
 - a. Imagine you are growing up in a conflict zone. Write a letter to an imaginary pen-pal in a safe country sharing about your biggest fears and your hopes for the future.
4. Hold a debate on the topic "Were 'the Troubles' in Northern Ireland religiously motivated?"

EXTEND

1. Read [this homily \(cpx.video/johnpaul\)](https://cpx.video/johnpaul) of Pope John Paul II from his 1979 mass in Drogheda, Ireland. Make a poster outlining what the Pope calls the people of Northern Ireland to do, and the Bible verses and ideas he uses to appeal to them.