

Adapted from:

Kraybill, Donald B., and Cynthia L. Nolt. "Quakers." *The New Book of Knowledge*®. 2008. Grolier Online. 1 Dec. 2008 <<http://nbk.grolier.com/cgi-bin/article?assetid=a2024440-h>>.

The **Society of Friends** is a Protestant denomination, commonly known as **Quakers**.

Most Quakers share several basic beliefs:

Quakers believe that the light of God is within every person's heart.

This inner light makes it possible for each person to have a direct relationship with God, It also means that women as well as men should be allowed to preach and that everyone should be treated the same, regardless of their social status....Quakers believe that *all* human beings form one community....”

Adapted from Explore Pennsylvania History.com regarding the Quakers:

<http://www.explorepahistory.com/story.php?storyId=3&chapter=5>

“The movement to abolish slavery in North America also began in Pennsylvania. Only four years after the first slaves had arrived in Pennsylvania in 1684, German and Dutch Quakers living in Germantown issued the first colonial protest against the owning of other human beings.”

By the 1740s Quakers in New Jersey and Pennsylvania were mounting a crusade that would culminate in the abolition of slavery north of Mason-Dixon after the American Revolution. In 1779, Pennsylvania became the first state in the new nation to pass a law for the emancipation of enslaved Africans and African-Americans.

”The Quaker respect for the Inner Light of God in all people, regardless of race, gender or class and the emphasis on Brotherhood and nonviolent solutions to conflict informed the national struggle against slavery and racism...”

Excerpts from:

Armento, Beverly, et al. *America Will Be*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1994.

“Quakers truly respected differences. They believed in the spiritual equality of all people. Their strong belief in equality led them to dress and act

differently....They believed that all people were equal and that no one should receive special treatment.”

Adapted from: [http://www.earlham.edu/Q/brochure1/#who\\_are\\_friends](http://www.earlham.edu/Q/brochure1/#who_are_friends)

“Quakers believe that God speaks to the heart and mind of every person. Equality is centrally important to Friends, who strive to address "that of God" in each person....

Another result of the Quaker belief in equality is that many Friends are active in social justice concerns, sharing the conviction that everyone should be treated with respect regardless of differences,

Early settlers in parts of Indiana were Friends, who began arriving in the early 1800s, drawn west by the prospect of inexpensive, fertile farmland and the opportunity to escape the slave-owning culture of the South.

Prior to and during the Civil War, local Quakers expressed their opposition to slavery in various ways, with many becoming actively involved in the Underground Railroad that helped escaped slaves travel to freedom.