

## Angelina Emily Grimke, Abolitionist

*A southerner with considerable amount of national recognition as a figure in the abolitionist movement, which enabled her to participate in many anti-slavery events, even though she was female. In 1836, she and her sister Sarah attended the Convention of the American Anti-Slavery Society. They were the only women at the convention.*

*Grimké was invited to speak at the Massachusetts State Legislature in 1837, and testified February 1838, becoming the first woman in the United States to address a legislative body. In 1838, Grimké began to tour the Northeast, giving abolitionist and feminist lectures in churches.*

*Excerpt from writing: Appeal to Christian Women of the South  
New York: American Anti-Slavery Society, 1836*

We must come back to the good old doctrine of our fore fathers who declared to the world, "this self evident truth that *all* men are created equal, and that they have certain *inalienable* rights among which are, life, *liberty*, and the pursuit of happiness." It is even a greater absurdity to suppose a man can be legally born a slave under *our free Republican* Government, than under the petty despotisms of barbarian Africa. If then, we have no right to enslave an African, surely we can have none to enslave an American; if a self evident truth that *all* men every where and of every color are born equal, and have an *inalienable right to liberty*, then it is equally true that *no* man can be born a slave, and no man can ever *rightfully* be reduced to *involuntary* bondage and held as a slave, however fair may be the claim of his master or mistress through wills and title-deeds.....

But some have even said that Jesus Christ did not condemn slavery. .... But did not Jesus condemn slavery? Let us examine some of his precepts. "*Whatsoever* ye would that men should do to you, do *ye even so to them*," Let every slaveholder apply these queries to his own heart; Am I willing to be a slave—Am I willing to see my wife the slave of another—Am I willing to see my mother a slave, or my father, my sister or my brother? If *not*, then in holding others as slaves, I am doing what I would *not* wish to be done to me or any relative I have; and thus have I broken this golden rule which was given me to walk by.

Try yourselves by another of the Divine precepts, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Can we love a man *as* we love *ourselves* if we do, and continue to do unto him, what we would not wish any one to do to us? Look too, at Christ's example, what does he say *of* himself, "I came *not* to be ministered unto, but to minister." Can you for a moment imagine the meek, and lowly, and compassionate Saviour, *a slaveholder*? Do you not shudder at this thought as much as at that of his being *a warrior*? But why, if slavery is not sinful?

### Friendly Questions:

1. What do you believe our fore fathers meant when they wrote "all men are created equal"?
2. What do you think Jesus would say about slavery?

### Unfriendly Questions:

1. In the Bible Jesus did not condemn slavery? So isn't slavery allowed by the Bible?
2. Our forefathers believed that only white males who owned property were created equal. Do you disagree with their interpretation?