

Student's Name

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Date

**Rhetorical Analysis Essay (Body Paragraph Example)**

King's most powerful appeal to shared religious authority appears in his use of scriptural allusion to frame segregation as a theological question rather than a political one. He writes: 'One has not only a legal but a moral responsibility to obey just laws. Conversely, one has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws. I would agree with St. Augustine that an unjust law is no law at all.' The allusion to Augustine, one of the foundational theologians of the Christian tradition, is directed precisely at an audience of Christian clergymen. By citing a source they are bound to respect, King argues that their silence on segregation is not merely politically inconvenient but theologically indefensible. This transforms the letter from a political appeal into a challenge that his audience cannot reject without rejecting their own tradition.

