

CAN'T WE ALL JUST  
**GET ALONG?**



**“Who God Is as a Reconciler”**

**EPHESIANS 2:14–22**

- God's creation was good (Genesis 1:3, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31).
- God is a God of peace (Romans 15:33; 16:20; I Corinthians 14:33; II Corinthians 13:11; I Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:20).

## Introductory Notes

*<sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything,  
but in everything by prayer and  
supplication with thanksgiving let your  
requests be made known to God.*

*<sup>7</sup> And the peace of God,  
which surpasses all understanding, will  
guard your hearts and your minds in Christ  
Jesus. <sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers, whatever is true,...*

**Philippians 4:6–9**

*whatever is honorable, whatever is just,  
whatever is pure, whatever is lovely,  
whatever is commendable, if there is any  
excellence, if there is anything worthy of  
praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup> What you  
have learned and received and heard and  
seen in me—practice these things,  
and the God of peace will be with you.*

**Philippians 4:6–9**



*I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and her offspring;  
he shall bruise your head,  
and you shall bruise his heel.*

**Genesis 3:15**

I. Introduction to the Series

**II. Who God Is as a Reconciler**

III. Who We Are in Conflict

A. "What Is the Cause of a Conflict?"

B. "What Motives of the Heart Drive Us to Resolve Conflicts?"

**Outline of Series**

## IV. How We Must Respond – 5 Ways

A. “Disarm Your Anger”

B. “Be a Peacemaker”

C. “Be Forgiving”

D. “Manage the Criticism”

E. “Learn the Righteous Way to Disagree”

Q/A – September 12

**Outline of Series**



## KEY POINT:

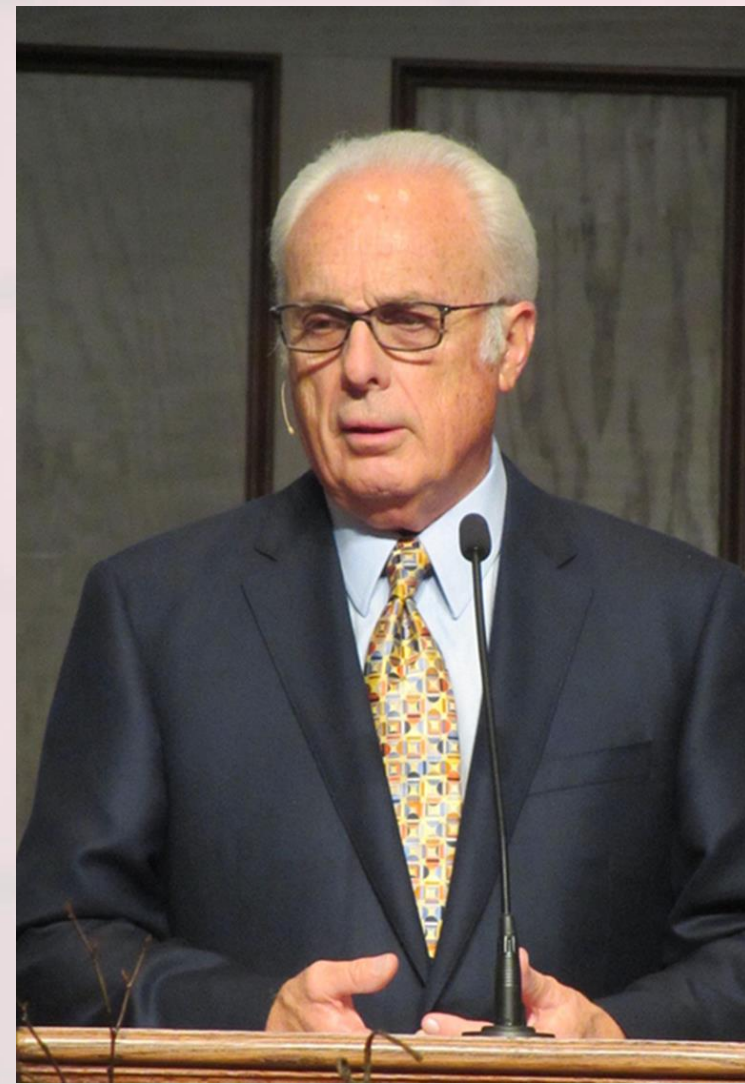
Without **God** and the **Gospel**,  
there is no **hope** for true conflict  
resolution.

# I. The Enmity Between Jews and Gentiles (vs. 13–15)

*and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.*

**Colossians 1:20**

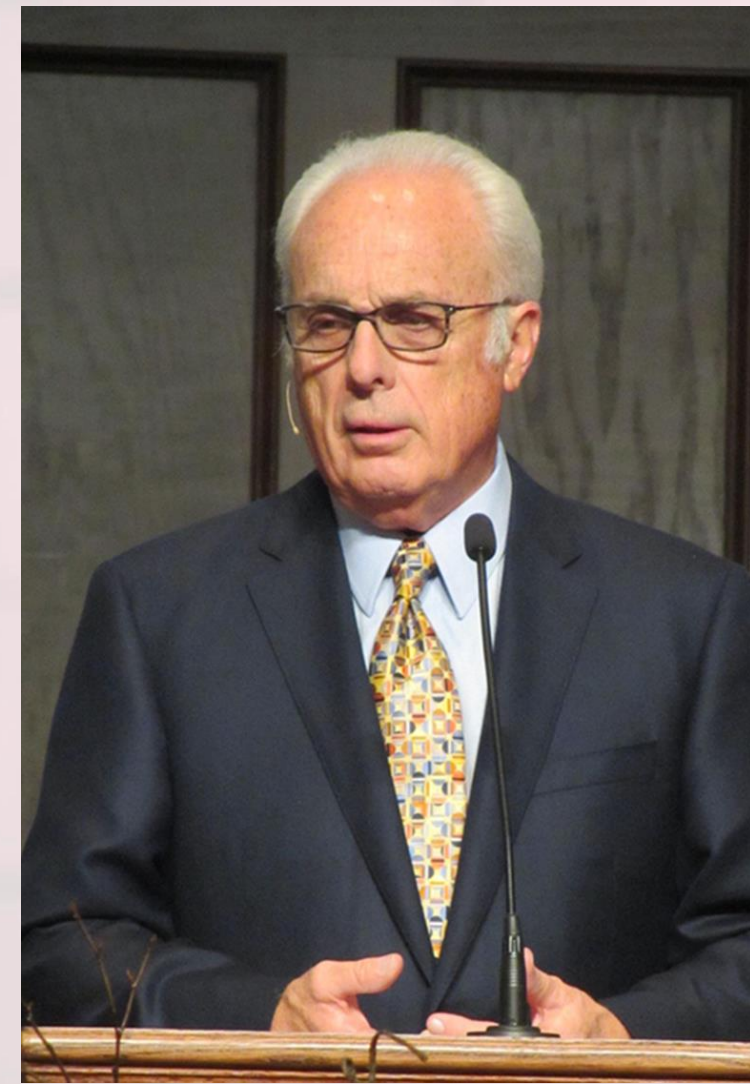
*"The root cause of strife, discord, antagonism, enmity, hate, bitterness, fighting, war, conflict and every other form of disunity and division is sin...And the only solution for divisions among men is the removal of sin, which Jesus Christ accomplished..."*



**John MacArthur**  
***(Ephesians)***



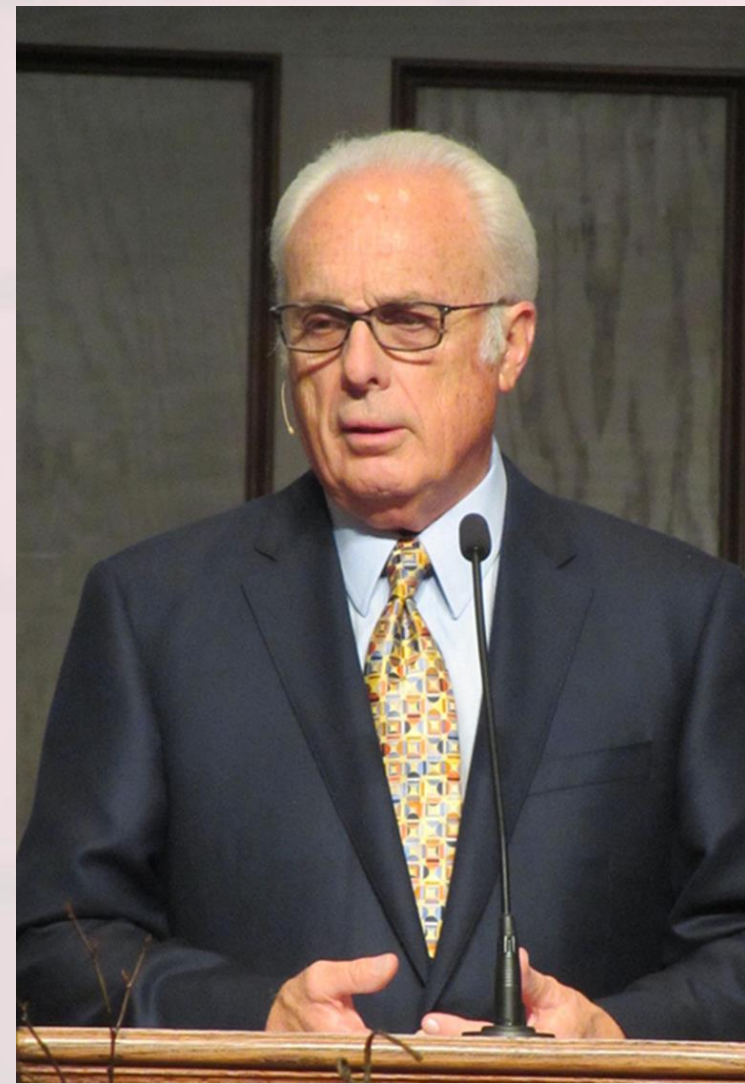
*"...by the shedding of His own blood. Those who trust in his atoning work are freed from sin now in their new nature and will be practically and permanently freed from sin in their new bodies when they meet the Lord. The cleansing value of the blood of Christ..."*



**John MacArthur**  
***(Ephesians)***



*"...immediately washes away the penalty of sin and ultimately washes away even its presence. Because in Christ the great foundational barrier of sin has been removed, every other barrier has been removed as well."*



**John MacArthur**  
***(Ephesians)***

*<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and shepherd his flock  
in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his  
God. And they shall dwell secure,  
for now he shall be great to the ends  
of the earth.  
<sup>5</sup> And he shall be their peace. ...*

**Micah 5:4–5a**

*"Talk of peace, the hope for peace, and the hard work of peacemaking ought not to be solely the pursuit of social liberals or wide-eyed idealists. Rather, such talk, hope, and work ought to mark most those who believe in the God of peace..."*



**Alfred Poirier, *The Peacemaking Pastor***



*"...and his Son,  
the Prince of Peace.  
Peacemaking is thoroughly  
biblical in its reality and  
mandate.*



**Alfred Poirier, *The  
Peacemaking Pastor***

*For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him.*

**Romans 10:12**



*There is neither Jew nor Greek,  
there is neither slave nor free,  
there is no male and female,  
for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

**Galatians 3:28**

The wall that separated the Gentiles from the Jews in the Temple?

NO – It is never referred to this way.

NO – This wall was still standing when Paul wrote Ephesians.

NO – The Ephesians would not have understood it this way.

**What Kind of Wall is This?**

The curtain between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies?

NO – It was never called a curtain.

**What Kind of Wall is This?**

# The Mosaic Law?

NO – The Law as given to the Jews to live separately from others, not to create hostility between Jew and Gentile.

**What Kind of Wall is This?**

## **KEY POINT:**

Without God and the Gospel,  
there is no hope for true conflict  
resolution.



- I. The Enmity Between Jews and Gentiles  
(vs. 13–15)
- II. The Enmity Between Sinners and God  
(vs. 16–18)

1. The relationship has changed from hostile to friendly.
2. It means we are re-united or re-connected like the pre-Fall.
3. It is complete.
4. God began the process of completion.

**Implications of Reconciliation  
(from Martyn Lloyd-Jones)**

*"We are one in Christ. Verse 16 says he killed the hostility. This tells us what the barrier to peace among people is: sin. Adam and Eve were naked and unashamed. But then they sinned, they started hiding from God and one another. Sin separates..."*



**H.B. Charles, Jr.  
(A Biblical Answer for  
Racial Unity)**

*"...us from God and from one another. But Christ has killed the hostility. This is why the church ought to be characterized by peace. The cross binds us together. So we must not build any dividing walls of hostility in the church or allow any to...*



**H.B. Charles, Jr.  
(*A Biblical Answer for  
Racial Unity*)**



*"...stand. Marriages end over so-called 'irreconcilable differences.' But is there any such thing as irreconcilable differences if Jesus has killed the hostility between us? So it is with the church."*



**H.B. Charles, Jr.  
(*A Biblical Answer for  
Racial Unity*)**



*<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and behold,  
a great multitude that no one could  
number, from every nation, from all tribes  
and peoples and languages, standing  
before the throne and before the Lamb,  
clothed in white robes, with palm branches  
in their hands,<sup>10</sup> and crying out with a loud  
voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who  
sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!*

## **Revelation 7:9–10**

*"I interpret 'every tribe and language and people and nation' literally. God chose people in even predominantly pagan nations and reached them by sending men and women or angels, dreams, and visions. What people groups will be worshiping...*



**Randy Alcorn**  
***(Heaven)***

*"...Christ on the New Earth?  
Celts, Goths, Huns, Lombards,  
Saxons, Vikings, Serbs, Croats,  
Slovenes, Canaanites, Hittites,  
Phoenicians, Sumerians,  
Assyrians, Persians, Mongols,  
Malaysians, Aztecs, Mayans,  
Incas—and countless other  
civilizations, ancient and...*



**Randy Alcorn**  
***(Heaven)***

*"...modern. Representatives of nations and cultures that no longer exist today will be raised, to God's glory, in a purified form that includes whatever pleased God and excludes whatever didn't."*



**Randy Alcorn**  
***(Heaven)***



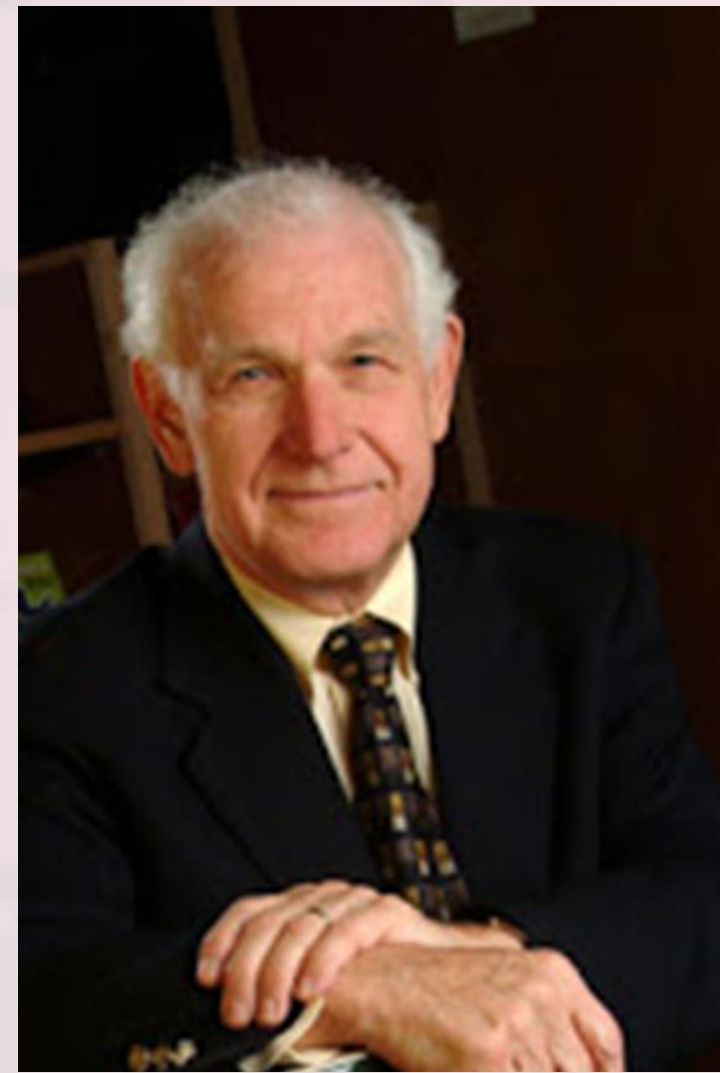
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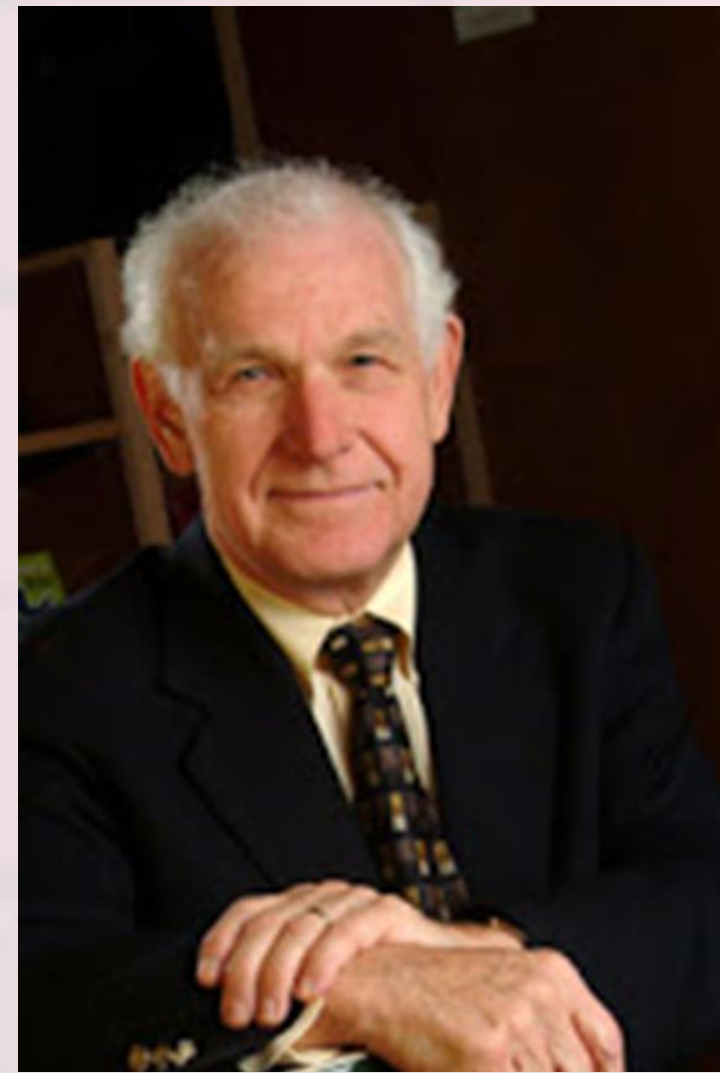
- I. The Enmity Between Jews and Gentiles  
(vs. 13–15)
- II. The Enmity Between Sinners and God  
(vs. 16–18)
- III. The Reconciliation of God's Family  
(vs. 19–22)

*“Those in the new entity are saints who are fellow citizens with all the saints of past generations, who are also members of God’s household. None of the succeeding generation of saints replaces the former generation, but all join as...*



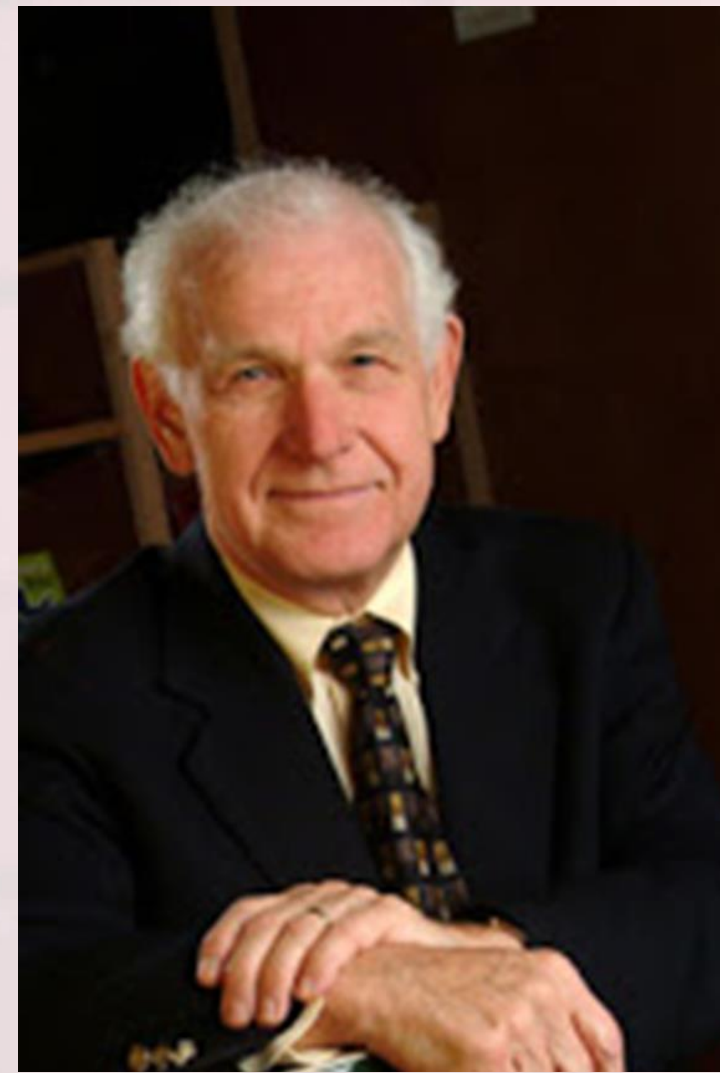
**Harold Hoehner**  
***(Ephesians)***

*"...members of God's household or family. Though there may be distinctions, they are all fellow citizens. Through there may be differences, there are no inferiors or superiors. All the saints of every generation believed that God was involved with their...*



**Harold Hoehner**  
***(Ephesians)***

*"...redemption and reconciliation. They all had access to God and they all had fellowship with God and other saints. The believers today are neither Jews nor Gentiles but are Christians who pray and give praise to God as all the saints in former generations."*



**Harold Hoehner**  
***(Ephesians)***



*But our citizenship is in heaven,  
and from it we await a Savior, the Lord  
Jesus Christ,*

**Philippians 3:20**



*<sup>11</sup> And he gave the apostles, the prophets,  
the evangelists, the shepherds and  
teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work  
of ministry, for building up the body  
of Christ,*

**Ephesians 4:11-12**