

CAN'T WE ALL JUST
GET ALONG?



**“Learn the Righteous Way to
Disagree”**

EPHESIANS 4:1-3

- I. Introduction to the Series
- II. Who God Is as a Reconciler
- III. Who We Are In Conflict
 - A. What Is the Cause of Conflict?
 - B. What Should Motivate Us to Resolve Conflict?
- 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**

- Not as unsaved Gentiles (Eph 4:17; Col 3:7)
- Just like Christ (Eph 5:2; Rom 14:15)
- As children of light (Eph 5:8)
- Wisely (Eph 5:15; Col 4:5)
- In newness of life (Rom 6:4)
- Not according to our flesh (Rom 8:4; II Cor 10:2-3)
- Modestly (Rom 13:13)
- By faith (II Cor 5:7)

How We Walk

- By the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:16)
- According to other godly examples (Phil 3:17)
- In a manner worthy of our calling (Col 1:10; 2:6; I Thess 2:12)
- To please God (I Thess 4:1)
- Uprightly before unbelievers (I Thess 4:12)

How We Walk

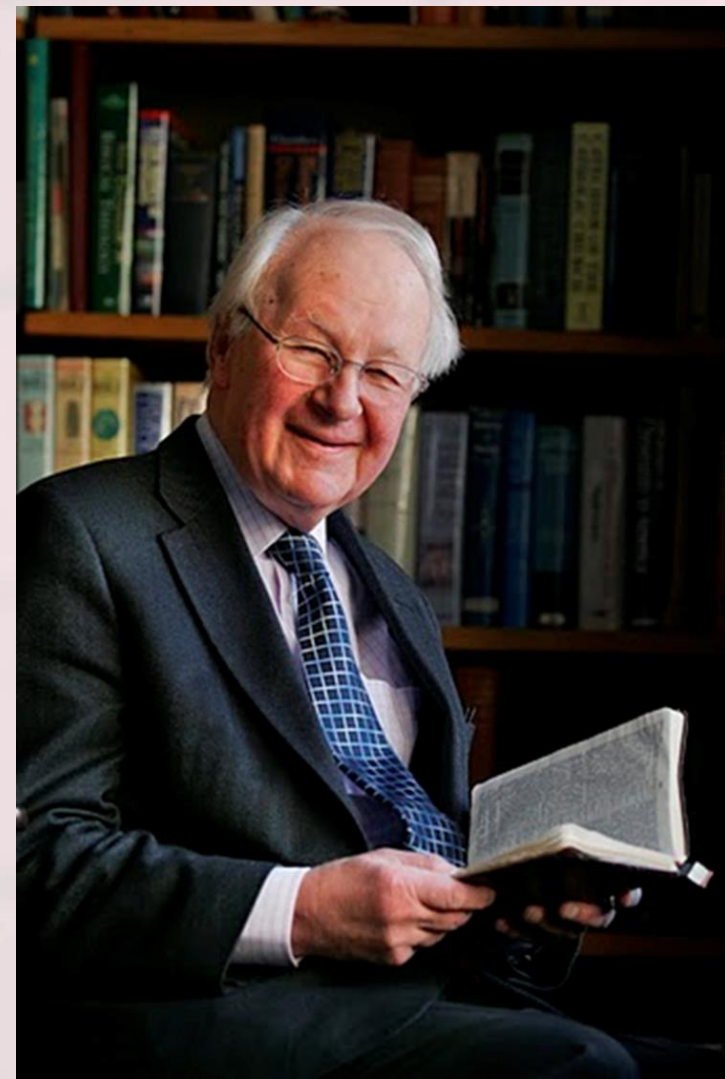
I. We can disagree humbly (Ephesians 4:2).

**How Can We Respond to a
Disagreement?**

1. Considering others more important than yourself (Philippians 2:3)
2. Example of Jesus (Philippians 2:7-8)
3. Poor in spirit (Matthew 5:3)
4. Parables about humility (Luke 14:7-11)
5. Wear humility like your own clothes (Col 3:12; I Pet 5:5).
6. God is opposed to the proud (James 4:6).

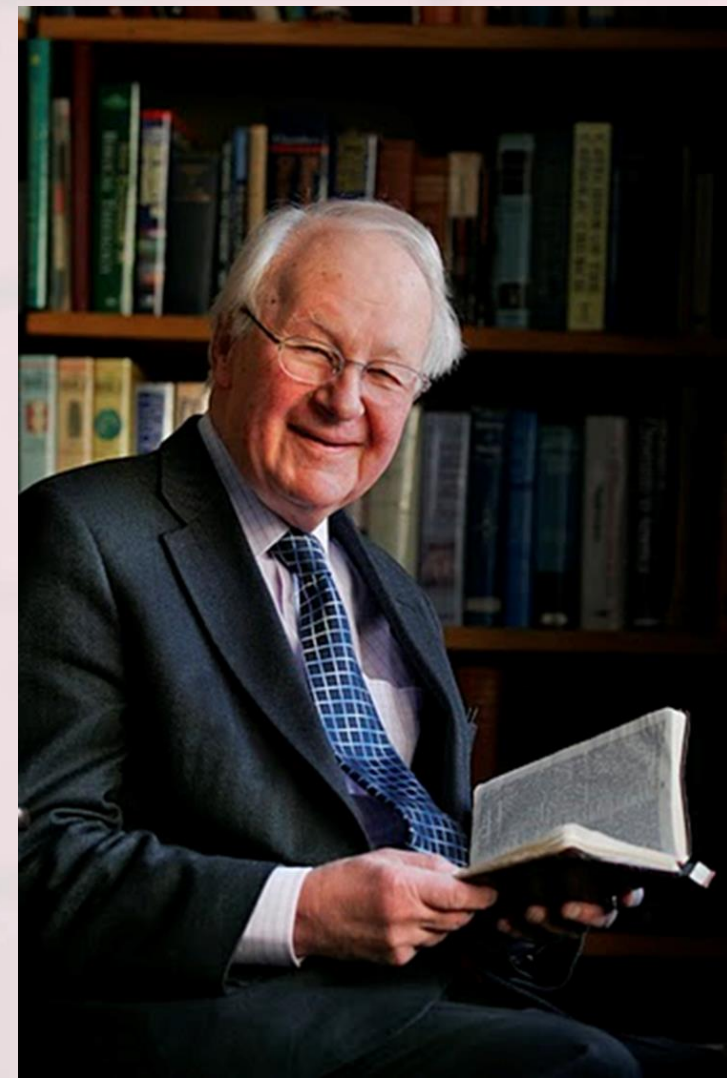
Examples of Humility in the Bible

“Pride lurks behind all discord, while the greatest single secret of concord is humility. It is not difficult to prove this in experience. The people we immediately, instinctively like, and find it easy to get on with, are the people who give us the respect we consider we deserve, while the people we ...



**Chuck Swindoll,
*Hand Me Another Brick***

“... immediately, instinctively dislike are those who treat us like dirt ... Personal vanity is a key factor in all our relationships.”

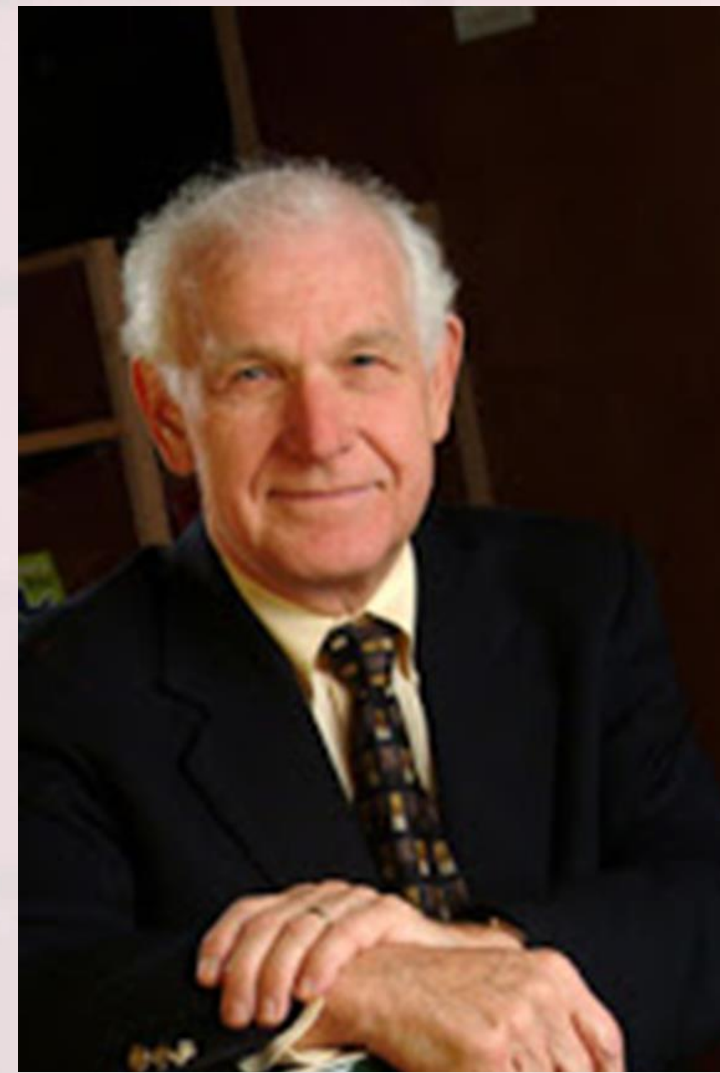


**Chuck Swindoll,
*Hand Me Another Brick***

- I. We can disagree humbly (Ephesians 4:2).
- II. We can disagree gently (Ephesians 4:2).

**How Can We Respond to a
Disagreement?**

“For instance, controlled by the master’s will, a well trained dog is always angry at the right time and never angry at the wrong time. When such a person is wronged, he or she does not seek revenge, but when a wrong has been committed..



Harold Hoehner

“...toward a brother or sister,
or the body of believers,
he or she has the power to
address the situation.”



Harold Hoehner

1. A fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:23)
2. We go to a brother in sin with a spirit of gentleness (Galatians 6:1-2; II Timothy 2:25)
3. Marked by our gentleness (Titus 3:2)

Examples of Gentleness in the Bible

- I. We can disagree humbly (Ephesians 4:2).
- II. We can disagree gently (Ephesians 4:2).
- III. We can disagree patiently (Ephesians 4:2).

**How Can We Respond to a
Disagreement?**

1. God's patience leading us to repentance (Romans 2:4; I Timothy 1:16)
2. God's patience towards those who work to their own destruction (Romans 9:22)
3. Love is patient (I Corinthians 13:4).
4. A fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22)
5. Clothing ourselves with patience (Colossians 3:12)
6. Being patient with all (I Thessalonians 5:14)

Examples of Patience in the Bible

- I. We can disagree humbly (Ephesians 4:2).
- II. We can disagree gently (Ephesians 4:2).
- III. We can disagree patiently (Ephesians 4:2).
- IV. We can disagree lovingly (Ephesians 4:2).

**How Can We Respond to a
Disagreement?**

1. Covering a multitude of sins (1 Peter 4:8)
2. Bearing one another's weaknesses (Romans 15:1)
3. A characteristic of love (1 Corinthians 13:7)

**Examples of Bearing with Others in
the Bible**

- I. We can disagree humbly (Ephesians 4:2).
- II. We can disagree gently (Ephesians 4:2).
- III. We can disagree patiently (Ephesians 4:2).
- IV. We can disagree lovingly (Ephesians 4:2).
- V. We can disagree and still remain eager to maintain unity (Ephesians 4:3).

**How Can We Respond to a
Disagreement?**

1. Prepare (Proverbs 14:15).
2. Affirm (Ephesians 4:4-6).
3. Understand one another's interests (Philippians 2:3-4).
4. Search for creative solutions (James 1:5).
5. Evaluate options objectively and reasonably (Proverbs 18:13).

P.A.U.S.E.

1. How important is the issue? (Romans 14)
2. How convinced of your position are you?
3. Are you prizing the argument over the person?
4. Am I prizing the issue over the church's unity?
5. Is this the right time and place for this conversation? (Ephesians 4:29)
6. Are you a delight to disagree with?

**Six Questions to Ask Before
Engaging in a Difficult Conversation**

“The best teacher I ever had,
and the best colleague,
he did not ask or expect me to
share his convictions...
His manner might be
described as politely merciless
... His twin passions by then,
apart from literature itself,
were people and arguments,
but he did not often make the
mistake ...



C.S. Lewis

“... of confusing them ...
He had vigor without venom;
he was generous ...
If I were ever to be asked what
I learned from him, that would
be my reply: the art of
disagreement.”



C.S. Lewis

*24 The LORD bless you and keep you;
25 the LORD make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
26 the LORD lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace.*

Numbers 6:24-26