

Can the Body of Christ Disagree Agreeably?

Disagreement over the issues of the day will not shatter the unity of the church.

Each day we can see the attacks on the Christian community, but almost as frequent are examples of contention and discord within the church. Some American Christians come to faith out of such a disorderly lifestyle and worldview that they ardently desire Christian orthodoxy and philosophical consistency to guide their lives thereafter. So far, so good.

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Others are so nervous about the dominant secular culture in our nation that they, for all intents and purposes, insist that prevailing opinions, decisions on public policy issues and the wider cultural tides be provided or otherwise preordained only by leading Christian figures, Christian television programming and sufficiently boisterous attack-dog social media influencers presenting themselves under the “Christian” banner.

I am not criticizing these groups. I am merely unhappy that American evangelical Christians, having made positive spiritual decisions in their lives, aren’t willing to do more thinking on their own.



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So, the question stands: Can the body of Christ disagree without being as disagreeable as the outside world?

I see no reason evangelicals must walk in lockstep on issues such as the culture skirmishes, the terrorist war on Israel, aid to Ukraine, how to address Chinese and Russian expansionism, whether health care policy is OK and certainly the 2024 presidential elections out of fear that disagreement on public-policy issues will get someone cancelled on social media, turn a family dinner into a riot and squash any unity within the Christian church. The fact is, it is OK for Christians to disagree on key political and social issues. By doing so, they have not sinned against one another.

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