

THE
ART OF
DISAGREEING

HOW TO
KEEP CALM
AND STAY
FRIENDS
IN HARD
CONVERSATIONS

GAVIN
ORTLUND

- Paperback
- 96 Pages
- ISBN 9781802541403
- February 2025
- The Good Book Company

 [thegoodbook.com](https://www.thegoodbook.com)

 [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

“Culture wars, political polarization, and the toxic climate of social media are making it harder than ever for Christians to have conflictual conversations ... Ortlund offers both spiritual encouragement and practical guidance for listening well, speaking wisely, and honoring God whenever we disagree.”

Philip G. Ryken

“This is a winsome, courageous, warm-hearted, and desperately needed book. Don’t let its brevity fool you into thinking it can’t possibly tackle this issue in a searching way.”

Gary Millar

The Art of Disagreeing

How to Keep Calm and Stay Friends in Hard Conversations

In this positive and practical book, Gavin Ortlund looks to the Scriptures to discover a way in which to disagree with others that leads to greater understanding, peace, and love—and that shows a watching world something of Jesus.

This is a much-needed message in a society that is losing the ability to disagree well. Whether over politics, religion, or culture, or the more everyday issues of normal life, points of view tend to be held with a polarizing intensity. Too often we view disagreements as must-win contests. Or we simply do our best to avoid them altogether.

Looking to Jesus’ example of courage and kindness, readers will be given a framework for engaging in intense disagreements with a love that furthers instead of hinders relationships.

So, whether you tend to fight or flee, learn how to keep calm and stay friends—even when you disagree.

About the Author

Gavin Ortlund is a pastor, author, speaker, and apologist. He serves as President of Truth Unites and Theologian-in-Residence at Immanuel Nashville. Gavin is the award-winning author of *Why God Makes Sense in a World That Doesn't*, *The Art of Disagreeing*, and *Finding the Right Hills to Die On*. A fellow of The Keller Center for Cultural Apologetics, Gavin is married to Esther and they have five children.



Suggested Interview Questions

1. Why is disagreement itself not the problem?
2. How do people respond to disagreements like either hedgehogs or rhinos, and why is neither a healthy response?
3. How does unhealthy disagreement with other believers become a hindrance to the gospel?
4. How can healthy disagreement provide an opportunity to showcase Christ's love to the watching world?
5. Can you explain how Stephen the martyr's response to persecution provides a model for us in the midst of disagreement?
6. Some Christians associate kindness in the midst of disagreement as weakness. Why do you consider it to be a powerful virtue to display in that particular context?
7. How is courage in disagreement both vulnerable and beautiful?
8. What are some specific practices we can use to become better listeners as we seek to disagree in a healthy way?
9. What are some ways to pray in order to maintain an openhearted posture toward others even in the midst of conflict?
10. How is persuasion in disagreement different than manipulation?