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October 22, 1991

Dear Clark:

Thanks for your prompt response to my letter, Clark.

As usual, I find you gracious and entirely open.

I do not fathom why well-meaning Christians can look at the same biblical data and disagree so profoundly in areas especially of life and death implications. And yet, that is the reality of what you call "hermeneutical pluralism".

I recall an article by John Howard Yoder in an early issue of Transformation, in which he says that the division between pacifists and nonpacifists is as profound as that between believers and unbelievers. What has blunted that sharp tension has been the overwhelming attack of secularism this century, which has thrown us all together to fight for our lives! I remember being very saddened by that, yet sense his analysis is fairly accurate. He believes that divide is still a major issue for the church of the new millennium.

In any event, I do not remotely doubt your integrity. I highly respect your Christian witness over the years. You have personally helped me in my faith walk through your life and writings. And though such a theological disagreement is painful, I gladly affirm you as a brother from whom I wish to continue to learn, and with whom I gladly remain in fellowship.

May God have mercy on us as we continue to work out our salvation with fear and trembling.

Thanks for the dialogue on this, Clark. We will remain in touch from time to time.