CAN WE COEXIST?

* Ever seen a car similar to this?
* Coexist Bumper Sticker…
  + Parody versions – Demonstrate popularity of original
  + Meaning:
    - C – Crescent Moon: ISLAM
    - O – Peace symbol
    - E – Male/female symbol or scientific equation
    - X – Star of David: JUDAISM
    - I – Pagan/Wiccan symbol
    - S – Chinese yin yang; Taoism; Confucianism
    - T – Cross: Christianity
  + History
    - Polish graphic designer – contest by The Museum on the Seam for Dialogue, Understanding and Coexistence in Jerusalem
    - Popularized by U2 in 2004, small Indiana company registered TM in 2005 & began suing websites & companies using image without permission
    - Legal battle between IN company and Israeli Museum
    - Now, Coexist is non-profit promoting “social cohesion”
* Positives?
  + Love and Respect for others – Lev. 19:18; Rom. 13:8-10
  + Support religious freedom, tolerance, understanding, & peace – Heb. 12:14
  + While these mock Coexist images might make valid points, such attitudes will not help us relate to non-Christians, should such a one be interested in studying.
* Rebuttal – we must love our neighbor, but we cannot compromise the truth.
  + Jn. 3:16 – IN HIM, not in any other.
* Israel’s example of Coexistence
  + God’s commands
    - Ex. 20:3 – No other gods.
    - Deut. 7:1-4 – No covenants or marriage
  + Israel’s punishment & consequences for disobedience
* Early church
  + Heb. 6:1-6 – Go on to perfection… don’t backslide to something inferior.
  + 1 Cor. 6:9, 11 – Corinthian Christians converted from idolatry
  + Ax. 17:22-34
* Application
  + We must coexist with others to have the opportunity to teach. Mt. 28:19-20
  + But know your boundaries. 2 Cor. 6:14-18
  + Heb. 10:23 – Stick to our faith, so we can “coexist” with the Father