

# WAR WITHIN THE CHURCH: FIGHTING FAIR ABOUT THE WAR IN IRAQ

7:00–9:00 p.m., Wednesday

**MARCH 5, 2008**

**Brookside Christian  
Reformed Church**

Like our nation, we are a church divided over our nation's current war in Iraq. Our panelists this evening will ask questions such as: why do we have such different opinions about the war and how do we maintain our Christian unity and live together in the church when we don't agree with each other?

- Listen to our panelists share how their faith, reading of God's word, and the Reformed tradition have helped them form their opinions on the Iraq war.
- Seek to understand the views of Christians who disagree with us about the war in Iraq.
- Discuss our nation's war in Iraq and military policies from a Christian perspective.
- Discuss the Church's role, response, and voice during a time of war.

*This discussion is free  
and open to the public.*

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## PANELISTS:

**John Bolt**, Professor of Systematic Theology, Calvin Theological Seminary

"On September 11, 2001, The United States of America was attacked by an international jihadist group dedicated to destruction of Western civilization. We have enemies that are determined to destroy us. The invasion of Iraq was a just-war response and serious attempt to take the war to the enemy in one of the headwaters of international terrorism."

**John Cooper**, Professor of Philosophical Theology, Calvin Theological Seminary

"My basic perspective on the War in Iraq is traditional Christian just war doctrine, not American politics or foreign policy. By that standard I was opposed to the war even before we started it. But since we did, I think that we are obligated to stay there until the Iraqis can reestablish a viable government or it becomes clear that they cannot. As my mother would say, "You shouldn't have messed with it in the first place. But now that you broke it, you should fix it.""

**David Hoekema**, Professor of Philosophy, Calvin College

"From the beginning of the preparatory propaganda campaign down to the present quagmire, the Iraq conflict has offered an instructive example of the misuse of ideology to the neglect not only of moral obligations but also of genuine national interest. All of its stated aims remain elusive, after nearly five years of war, but it has caused deep and lasting damage to the United States, to Iraq, and to the international order."

