

Learning to Love My Friend(s)

Guidelines to Negotiate

Amos 3:3

1. May I be the leader of this group?
2. Will we start on time? (6:30, radio station: WWV; www.time.gov, + - 15 seconds)
3. Will we quit on time? (9:00)
4. May we take a 15 minute break? (7:45 - 8:00)
5. Will you let us know if you will be late or absent?
6. Will you make up a missed class?
7. Will we speak one at a time? 1 Corinthians 14:27-33
8. Will we talk where others can hear or will we speak softly and in small groups where others will not know what is being said?
9. Will each person speak for himself or herself or will we speak for others such as “they,” “them,” “everybody,” and for God as well?
10. Will we have a right to all our feelings: the painful as well as the pleasant?
11. Do you want to have a rule that we will not make fun of what people say in this class?
12. May I, as the leader, have a right to interrupt?
13. Will we have a right to disagree with each other?
14. Will we settle group business in the group or will we get in small groups afterwards and talk about each other?
15. Do we want to have a rule of confidentiality:
 - a. What we say here stays here?
 - b. Will you take care of yourself, telling the group only what you trust them to keep?
16. If what I say offends or hurts you, will you tell me or will you talk about me to others?
17. If, after the class is over, you realize that you didn't get finished, will you bring the matter back to the group and work it out?
18. May we be humble instead of arrogant? That is, if we don't know what someone is thinking or feeling, will we ask or will we assume that we know what they are thinking or feeling? Matthew 5:3; 1 Corinthians 2:11
19. May others respond to what we say?
20. When we ask a question, will we be willing to tell why we want to know the answer?
21. May a person decide to quit talking when they choose?
22. May we have an understanding that we don't have to “cover” a lesson during the class period?
23. May we have permission to learn more during the week, thinking about what we said and did in the class than in the class itself?
24. Will we agree to try to apply these Biblical principles to ourselves before we try to “fix” others who are in the class or people who are not here?
25. May we bring up “old business” if we need to clarify or discuss something further?
26. What rules have we not included that we need for productive discussion and learning?
27. Would you be willing to tell what you like about this class, what is helpful and what is not helpful, and in this way give suggestions for improving this class?