

General Topics :: New 'SermonIndex Community Guiding Principles'

New 'SermonIndex Community Guiding Principles' - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2012/4/29 1:22

Saints,

We have released an official new guiding principles thread for the sermon index community in replace of the last list of technical rules, etc we feel to highlight these heart attitudes will bear more fruit and we are still reviewing and editing them to try and encourage the saints here towards unity in our Lord Jesus Christ and for conversations that are fruitful and edifying for all involved.

You can read the official thread here (which is locked for comments):

SermonIndex Community Guiding Principles

https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id=44556&forum=13

And here is a version of the guidelines that is unlocked in this thread for your comments and thoughts and encouragements:

We are excited for your participation in this online community focused on walking with the Lord in authentic discipleship and in the spirit filled life. The word revival is used much on the site and though it speaks of a larger work of God's Spirit in the earth which we pray and covet for it also conveys the simple surrendering of our lives to Jesus Christ fully and allowing Him to have His way through us. Such personal revival is something we can walk in because its biblical discipleship and the call of God for us. "Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did." (1 John 2:6). This is not something we do in our strength but as we are more and more dependent on our Heavenly Father he works this change in us (Galatians 2:20).

Here are some clear guiding principles for us all to agree with and have unity on as we endeavour to keep the unity of the faith in this discussion forum. "...striving together as one for the faith of the gospel." (Philippians 1:27).

1. JESUS CHRIST THE HEAD - There are many over-arching themes discussed on the forums but we would put one above them all and that is the focusing on the person of Jesus Christ. If we all could just keep our Lord in the centre of our thoughts, actions, re-actions and endeavours then we would surely glorify His Name by our participation in the forums. He should be spoken of much for all things are from Him and relate to Him (Romans 11:36). And He is the head of the Church (Colossians 1:18). "For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified." (1 Corinthians 2:2).

2. BEING TEACHABLE - Being teachable is another guiding principle that we ask would be something we would all desire to cultivate. To have this humility with the apostle Paul who in a humble attitude was seeking for maturity in the Christian walk yet would not judge his brothers for other opinions and teachings (Philippians 3:15). We can learn from even the weakest amongst us for each one of us has some truth, some practice that they understand or have a better revelation than we do. Therefore we must continually humble ourselves to learn from even the babes in Christ. This glorifies God and brings unity to the body (1 Corinthians 12:21-23).

3. HAVING A PERSONAL AGENDA - We look down on people who come with personal agenda's or are trying to justify themselves on a particular doctrine or emphasis. We believe it is not healthy to try and impose a truth that you have on many other brothers or sisters. This type of believer feels that a truth they have is more important than the rest and feels a godliness for holding to that truth. Such a godliness is false and will not bring about the fruits of the Spirit in the life of that believer (Galatians 5:22-23).

4. SERVANTHOOD - Another guiding principle is to come to the forums as a servant of all. This is following the example of our Lord who came to serve and not be served. Paul the Apostle furthers this teaching by extending it to all men that we should prefer others before ourselves (Philippians 2:1-7). This teaching is important to grasp and practice especially in

in our speech and writing on a public venue such as these forums. God will give us opportunities everyday to walk in these truths to serve others and not ourselves with such attitudes and a lifestyle God is glorified.

5. **SPEAKING WITH GENTLENESS** - Having mercy, gentleness, and meekness in our posts on the forums is not only good it is needful. Especially when there is not a face to face conversation one cannot understand a person's tone well so be extra careful to show forth your tone to people in the posts and try to ensure you are not accusing, or speaking angrily against another but adding positive affirmations and kindness into your posts. This will help to not give the devil any opportunity to bring division (Ephesians 4:27). For division, backbiting and sectarianism is carnality and we are not walking in the Spirit when doing so (Jude 1:19).

6. **SELF-PROMOTION** - Self-Promoting your own teachings or articles, sermons and videos is not encouraged in the forums. We have hand-selected over 50,000 audio, video and text resources on sermon index and we ask that the majority of the discussions centre around those materials provided. You can post another article or sermon from another source also long as its not contrary to the tenor of the materials on SermonIndex. But we ask that you do not promote your own audio sermon materials. 'Let someone else praise you, and not your own mouth' (Proverbs 27:2).

7. **SLANDERING OTHERS** - We have a zero tolerance on slander, evil-speaking and speaking against a person's character without warrant. 'Slander no one.' / 'to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.' NASB (Titus 3:2). This is a very important biblical principle and we ask that you would especially respect the biblical method of approaching a brother privately (Matthew 18:15). Also there are hundreds of websites in the internet that exclusively post wrong teachings, errors and question the character of Christians, we do not want SermonIndex to be seen as such a ministry and ask that all forum members do not participate in posting in what is wrong. We believe simply that truth dispels errors and to focus on the truth will shine a light into all the darkness.

8. **DIVISIONS AND QUARRELLING** - Having a healthy discussion on a topic, doctrine or important issue is allowed on SermonIndex. But if the subject discussion becomes heated and there is quarrelling it would be better to agree with your brother publicly in what you can and hold to what you believe against him privately. This calls for great maturity and wisdom in speaking in humility. It is better to agree with a brother that you are Christians and not divide over non-essentials. Let us go forward with meekness towards each other and having in mind the larger picture of the entire body of Christ. "I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought." (1 Corinthians 1:10).

9. **RESPECTING AUTHORITY** - Another guiding principle is submission to authority in the body of Christ. God has and continues to anoint men over areas of the church and ministries in the kingdom of God (Hebrews 13:17). Christian freedom is not being free from submission but rather freedom is experienced when we submit. We ask the forum users to submit to the servant leaders (moderators) on the forum here. We ask for prayers for these moderators also that they can make wise decisions as we endeavour to keep the unity of the saints. The great bible teacher Watchman Nee himself said in the local church he always sought to find someone to submit to. Therefore even leaders in the body of Christ need to submit to others. We advocate servant-leadership and those who lead the body of Christ with humility and brokenness (1 Peter 5:1-14). A recommend book resource: Touching Godliness Through Submission by K.P. Yohannan - <https://www.sermonindex.net/pdf/touchinggodlinessbykpyohannan.pdf>

10. **POSTING AND EDITING** - The issue is one of order rather than control. We allow as much patience as possible for corrections and apologies. Please make your corrections with a follow up reply, rather than by use of the edit function. There has been a misuse of this in the past where whole sections have been removed from an ongoing thread, making it now disconnected, like removing pages from a book. Please use the edit function for spelling corrections and if needed within the body of a post, please add a footnote to that which has been changed and why.

11. **PRAYING BEFORE YOU POST** - Please, pray. Pray before you post. Pray as you write in response. Pray, and ask the question of the Lord; "Should I?" Listen, give yourself a minute. Pray one last time and pause before you submit. Try and think of the ramifications of your thoughts and comments. Some things need not to be said. Some things can wait. Some things just as well do need to be addressed, but the manner may add more of a problem than be a help towards correction. The site moderators ask you before you post that you consider praying and ask the Lord if you have the right spirit to serve others in the body of Christ before posting and pressing the submit button. Please also look at these scriptures: Matthew 12:36, James 1:26, Colossians 4:6.

12. **CONFESSION** - Yes! We welcome it and desire it. It is not embarrassment to admit when we have faulted or sinned, caused a disturbance, been mean-spirited, proud, but an extreme blessing to the community and before the Lord. No on

e will be shamed into anything here nor manipulated, but forgiven without equivocation upon repentance. Our sins against others are also against the Lord and we must confess to both, but sometimes a public fault is good to be confessed publicly.

We will add to these principle as time goes on. Thank you for your continued prayers for this ministry and the moderators as this is greatly needed. Our desire for almost the last 10 years is that this website forum would be different then others in the internet and would be 'salt and light' (Matthew 5:16).

Re: New 'SermonIndex Community Guiding Principles' - posted by mguldner (), on: 2012/4/29 1:33

Brother Greg, I would like to thank you and the moderators for your effort to keep this forum a godly one. I will publically agree and submit to these guidelines as a member of SermonIndex. Thank you for hosting and monitering such a wonderful and diverse community of people.

God Bless,
Matthew

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2012/4/29 12:45

Thank you brother for your comment. We are going to bring this up many time in the next few weeks for the SermonIndex community to read.

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2012/4/29 14:19

Thank you dear brother for taking the time to rewrite the quidelines. Trusting they will be carefully considered and honored as we endeavor to serve the Lord in love.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2012/4/29 19:41

I am bringing these back up for others to read.

Re: - posted by Giggles (), on: 2012/4/29 21:11

An observation: the third guideline read a bit rough for me. While the principle is certainly necessary, perhaps the language could be reworked. The introductory phrase "We look down on people..." doesn't sound especially Christ-like. I'm sure there is biblical precedence addressing a similar thought that could be used.

Re: , on: 2012/4/29 21:17

Quote:
----- "We look down on people..." doesn't sound especially Christ-like.

That simple means that "we frown on people that have an agenda", they are not meaning they are putting people down, rather what they are spouting. It's hard to separate the person from the message they carry. They may have good intentions but their message may be wrong and we (the SI community) do not want such materials to be wrought here.

I hope I am not overstepping my bounds Admin Greg.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2012/4/29 21:25

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That simple means that "we frown on people that have an agenda", they are not meaning they are putting people down, rather what they are spouting. It's hard to separate the person from the message they carry. They may have good intentions but their message may be wrong and we (the SI community) do not want such materials to be wrought here.

I hope I am not overstepping my bounds Admin Greg.

Great thoughts from both of you, we will definitely consider rewriting this, by no means is it perfectly written or done. The other moderators are still also giving feedback on the guidelines also. thank you saints.

Re: New 'SermonIndex Community Guiding Principles' - posted by Areadymind (), on: 2012/4/30 1:47

3. HAVING A PERSONAL AGENDA - We look down on people who come with personal agenda's or are trying to justify themselves on a particular doctrine or emphasis. We believe it is not healthy to try and impose a truth that you have on many other brothers or sisters. This type of believer feels that a truth they have is more important then the rest and feels a godliness for holding to that truth. Such a godliness is false and will not bring about the fruits of the Spirit in the life of that believer (Galatians 5:22-23)

I do have to agree with giggles that #3 does sound a bit harsh.

Here is a suggestion which maintains the thought and sounds more objective. "3. HAVING A PERSONAL AGENDA - Personal agenda's or self-justification concerning particular doctrines and beliefs are frowned upon by Sermon Index. We believe it is not healthy to impose a truth to the end of establishing personal superiority over other brothers and sisters. The believer who does such things typically tends to exude a form of godliness for holding to that truth. Such a godliness is false and will not bring about the fruits of the Spirit in the life of that believer or the believers they are trying to help. (Galatians 5:22-23)."

I am thankful for the Governing rules at SI. I have actually adopted the spirit of SI's rules for all of my online interaction (which is very limited.) I see such wisdom and much of the sermon on the mount in the way these guidelines can have an outworking in internet life.

When I first ventured into the world of online interaction with Christians I had a very haughty spirit. The Lord used these guidelines to temper me. I am very thankful and believe that if we all truly submitted to them. This forum would be as much of a resource as the resource material on this website. (I won't be bothered if you don't consider my suggestion, it is just an idea.)

Re: , on: 2012/4/30 11:47

No complaints at all with the Management.

Just a request to members posting on the wrong sections of the Forum.

I like to come here and just read - and look to the Articles Section and Devotional Thoughts first for 'Sanctuary' and things to grow and gain peace by.

Here's the Header for Articles and Sermons -

"This section is for posting and discussing of sermon articles and audio sermons by various speakers. There is a restriction to post to audio sermons outside of SermonIndex but text sermons can be posted for fruitful, edifying discussion."

It's not for discussions on General topics or anything like what we've experienced yesterday - it's designated for what th

e header reads.

There are threads that are not being posted where they should be. Some should be in "the Miracles that follow the plow" section - the header for which reads -

""Post Prayer Requests, Testimonies & Answers to prayer in your life. Use this as a place to share what God is putting on your heart and doing daily.""

And so forth for the proper and orderly way in which the forums are set up.

Thank you!

Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2012/4/30 12:13

Amen and I also agree with alreadymind and believe you have the character to be a future moderator.

Brother you have been such a blessing to SI and myself because of your humility and keen wisdom the Lord has shown you.

I thought about the wise choices Greg has made in the moderators recently with Christian, Robert, and Compton. These are men with character as well as Paul and Greg. The moderators do an excellent job and are very well versed in the bible with wisdom from God to articulate the gospel message and to help give aid to others. They strive to keep the unity of the Spirit and make sure that people are treating each other with respect.

blessings...from brother rbanks

Re: , on: 2012/4/30 21:17

I am no longer seeing stars, someone please hit me again :-)

Have the stars been taken away? No biggie, I have always viewed them as performance, like a good record so far. By the way, what were they for?

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2012/4/30 21:32

Quote:

-----I am no longer seeing stars, someone please hit me again :-)

Have the stars been taken away? No biggie, I have always viewed them as performance, like a good record so far. By the way, what were they for?

Brother, we have taken out the stars with just a simple graphic. The stars represent before how many posts you had and the "moderators" had "red stars". After thinking about this further it makes more sense for all users to have the same status because we are all just Christians who are brothers and sisters and equal in Christ. And the reason the bar is "red" for moderators is just for them to stick out as an authority on the forums to be paid attention to "a little more" than the other posts.

I trust this change will help people more see themselves as the same as others and part of this community together. I am going to post this also as another thread so people can be aware of these changes just made.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2012/5/3 0:48

I am just bringing up these new "guiding principles" for those that have not seen them and we are going to be revising them in the next week God willing also. Thanks for all the input so far.

Re: New 'SermonIndex Community Guiding Principles' - posted by Trekker, on: 2012/5/3 1:27

These sound like good guidelines, i have no complaints or disagreement with any of them. I just have to be honest though and say that i feel VERY distrustful of any authority now after so many years of having been in churches where that authority was conducted with arrogance, abused, etc. There have also been other forms of authority i have encountered in society that have abused their authority and/or proven themselves untrustworthy, harsh, etc. So now i find it a LOT harder to respect ANY authority. My hackles go up around now around anyone in any position with a title or position of leadership over others. So i ask that any moderator who addresses me please do it in a meek, non-authority fashion (i'm having trouble saying what i am trying to say here but hopefully you get the idea). Basically, anyone with a title really raises my hackles. I'll try to refrain from snarling. Of course, i have to remind myself too that it is nothing personal.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2012/5/8 21:59

Tremendous comments so far which are helping us modify and change these rules as we are still revising them. Any other comments and suggestions as you read through them?

Thank saints for your feedback to help make sermon index a place where it can continue to be safe, encouraging and uplifting.