

Chat/Shoutbox Rules and Guidelines

Choosing to Look on the Positive Side

The devil likes to paint a gloomy picture. The Word of God says you need to look for the positive in every situation you face. This includes the positive side of others you meet. You cannot control what people do around you or when people work against you, but you can control how you react. Too many times, people look at the negative side of life and others. God wants you to look on the positive side.

Eph 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

Eph 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

Eph 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

As a 100% Christian chat room we must all practice a good Christian attitude. This document list certain behavior that will not be tolerated and is also a source of information of the tools and functions available to all of those that are taking part in discussions to avoid unwanted behavior from other members. Also, No one under 13 is allowed without parental consent.

To participate in our Recovery Program

You must be 18 years of age to join a CR group without parental consent. Those under 18 must furnish the following:

- Email address of your parent or guardian.
- An email directly from your parent or guardian authorizing your participation in a specific group or groups. (send email to the administrator of The 4 Gospels Christian Network)

Personality Conflicts

This is a public chat room. The moderators are here to see that the chat rules are followed. They are not here to mediate personality conflicts between members. In some cases a private meeting can be called between the parties involved. But try first to resolve the issue among yourselves. (Also see rule 7.)

Chat History

In the past some members have come to us with the chat history copied to attempt to plead a case of abuse against another member. Once the chat history has been copied from the history log it is no longer valid evidence of abuse. Once it has been copied into Word or another text editing program it can be edited, so there is no way to know if it is what was actually said in the room. So simply do not bother copying the history.

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Avatars & Fonts

This chat is equipped with animated avatars. Again, this is a public chat room. Some will like them, some will not. It is entirely up to individual what avatar they use. It is also entirely up to the user the font type and color they use. Complaints about another member's font or avatar will be ignored by the moderators. Note: you can also turn off the avatars under the options menu.

Private Chat

Monitoring of private conversations is a common practice by all chat sites on the Internet, especially Christian sites. This ability is given to the moderators and administrators on most sites.

Although we at The 4 Gospels Christian Network do not normally monitor private conversations, we DO have the capability of doing so. All private conversations are kept in the server logs and can be viewed at any time by the administrator. **ONLY the administrator has this ability**, the moderators cannot view the logs. The logs are kept for 2 months. So you do not have to be chatting at the time the logs are viewed for the administrator to view inappropriate behavior. Inappropriate behavior not covered specifically in the rules is at the discretion of the administrator.

Rules of the Room (all rules apply to private conversations also)

1. Thou shalt not commit adultery

Mat 5:27 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:

Mat 5:28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

This pretty much covers porn. No porn.

All of the rooms have audio and video capabilities. This is a very good thing that enhances our studies and CR share meetings. However it can also be abused. Nudity, vulgar gestures, or obscene photos over the webcams will NOT be tolerated.

2. No profanity.

Mat 5:33 Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths:

Mat 5:34 But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne:

Mat 5:35 Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King.

Mat 5:36 Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black.

Mat 5:37 But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.

And also:

Eph 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers

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3. Do not judge others.

Mat 7:1 Judge not, that ye be not judged.

Mat 7:2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

Mat 7:3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

Mat 7:4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam *is* in thine own eye?

Mat 7:5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

4. Treat others with respect.

Mat 7:12 "In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

5. No posting of links or promoting other forums and/or chat rooms?

We ask you to refrain from intentionally promoting other forums or chat rooms. If you are a member of another forum or chat room you are certainly welcome to join us in fellowship. However, please show respect and do not use us as a platform to promote another forum or chat room. This includes in private conversations also.

6. Do not use your microphone to broadcast songs to the room without first getting permission.

This is not what the microphone is for; post the link to the song. However, there may be a special occasion when this can be allowed. Of course it should never be done without first asking permission from a moderator or administrator. If there is no one present to ask everyone in the room if it is ok, if anyone objects, don't do it.

7. Backbiting and gossip – At times a member may have a conflict with another member of the site and feelings can be hurt. If this happens please refrain from talking about the issue to others in private, or especially not public chat. This is called backbiting or gossip and will not be tolerated. Even if you do not mention names it can be damaging to the serenity of the fellowship. It is best that you let it go, but if you can not a meeting can be arranged in private with you and the other member involved to resolve the issue. A neutral moderator can be present in the room.

Mat 18:15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

Mat 18:16 But if he will not hear *thee*, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

Mat 18:17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell *it* unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

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Most people do not realize it but this is what Paul has to say about **backbiting**.

Rom 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;

Rom 1:29 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers,

Rom 1:30 **backbiters**, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

Rom 1:31 undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;

Rom 1:32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

8. No flaming.

- *Computer Slang* . to send an angry, critical, or disparaging electronic message.
- *Computer Slang* . to insult or criticize angrily in an electronic message.

9. Racism, anti-Semitism, or any other racial attacks will not be tolerated.

FAQ

Question: Am I protected from inappropriate behavior or use of the video cameras?

Answer: Yes! With the mode that is running here, no one is forced to watch anyone's video. Videos do not launch automatically. Viewing other videos or publishing your own video is in your control. If you accidentally view something obscene report it to one of the moderators immediately.

Question: Can I protect myself from harassment by another member?

Answer: Yes of course. In most cases this will be noticed by a moderator in the room. If there are no moderators present, click on the person's name and select "mute". In most cases this will stop the harassment. If it continues,

Mat 18:15 **Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.**

Mat 18:16 **But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.**

Mat 18:17 **And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell *it* unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.**

Question: How do I hear what is being said in the room?

Answer: Hearing others is automatic when you enter the room. If you do not hear what is being said check your sound settings. If you do not want to hear, click the microphone icon beside their name. This will mute their microphone, but not there post.

Question: How do I speak to the room?

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Answer: First make sure your microphone is working properly. Then click on the 'webcam' icon to the top right of the chat window and begin speaking. Try to avoid using "Hands Free". This can sometimes cause feed back.

Question: If I do not wish to hear a person that is speaking. What do I do?

Answer: No one is forced to listen to what is being said by another member. Simply click on the persons 'microphone' icon to the right of their name to 'mute' their sound.

Shoutbox rules

The shoutbox is open to the public and guest. The rules here are much more relaxed than in our main chat.

- No profanity.
- No intentional promoting other forums or chat rooms.
- No flaming.
 - *Computer Slang* . to send an angry, critical, or disparaging electronic message.
 - *Computer Slang* . to insult or criticize angrily in an electronic message.
- No posting of anti-Christian or hate site links.