

CTR GroupMe policy

In setting Biblical communication guidelines for the CTR GroupMe chats, we want to take a stand against our secular culture's norms of communication on social media. We believe the church should communicate like God communicates, and this will be very different than the way the world communicates. We are calling for the redemption of social media, to use it for the glory of Jesus Christ, and to image forth what His kingdom is like on this earth. Scripture gives sound principles of God-honoring communication and should be our guide in any form of communication. Consider the following:

Romans 12:9-18: Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Ephesians 4:29-32: Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Colossians 4:6: Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Hebrews 10:24-25: And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

With these principles in mind, the elders of CTR recommend the following guidelines for communication on the CTR GroupMe chats.

The CTR GroupMe account is for CTR members and regular attenders and exists to facilitate useful and edifying communication within the church. This may include notification regarding church events and information, sharing prayer requests, or other information that is directly related to the life of the church.

Sharing prayer requests is encouraged. When sharing requests regarding another person, unless consent has been given to provide specific details, please do not specifically name the

person or share specific details so that we may conduct ourselves honorably and avoid the appearance of slander or gossip.

Communication regarding non-church-related activities, politics, or personal opinions on issues of the Christian life and faith not essential to the gospel, should be treated with special consideration. Some questions to ask yourself in considering whether to post communications on these topics in the GroupMe chats would include: Would this be best discussed face-to-face rather than impersonally over social media? Would most of the people in the church be interested in this, or would it be better to share directly with a few you know are interested? Will my post tend toward church unity or lead to division in the church? Is this the best place to post or is there another forum that would be a better fit for this post? Is the timing of my post appropriate, or should I wait? Is the volume of posts on the list getting overwhelming for some people? Will this post impart grace to those who read it?

Not only does thoughtful consideration need to be exercised when posting messages, it also needs to be exercised when reading posts. Some considerations while reading other's posts would include: How can I think the best of my brother/sister? Can I overlook the misstep I think they took? How can I use what I'm reading to rejoice or weep and pray with my fellow member?

Because the CTR GroupMe is an open forum, the fact that something gets posted on this GroupMe does not mean it is an official position of Christ the Redeemer Church or its leadership.

We hope that these guidelines will promote useful, edifying, and God honoring communication in CTR.

Mark Linville

Nate Wilson

Chip Zachary