

10 Tough Rules for Public Engagement

1. Your opinion is just that and probably won't get you quite as much attention in eternity.
2. Be slow to speak and quick to listen being ever mindful that your tongue has probably already done enough damage in this lifetime.
3. Do not vilify others for their opposing views, but instead treat them with the honor and grace that Jesus has extended to you as an opinionated, narcissistic, and flawed thinker.
4. Get the facts, verify your sources, and cite your references instead of relying on hearsay and opinions that do little more than stirring up gossip and conflict.
5. Be specific, building on Biblical truth and the facts, and avoiding generalizations and platitudes that are telltale signs of fuzzy and slothful thinking.
6. Focus on what you are for and not what you are against.
7. Don't exaggerate your narrow personal experiences into broad and sensational conclusions.
8. Avoid unwinnable debates and idle chatter that seduce you into becoming the detestable person who stirs up conflict in the community.
9. Don't publicly say something negative about a person without first seeking to talk with them directly.
10. Build healthy relationships with people of diverse opinions, and not simply followers of your personal ideology and opinions.