

Ethics of Debate



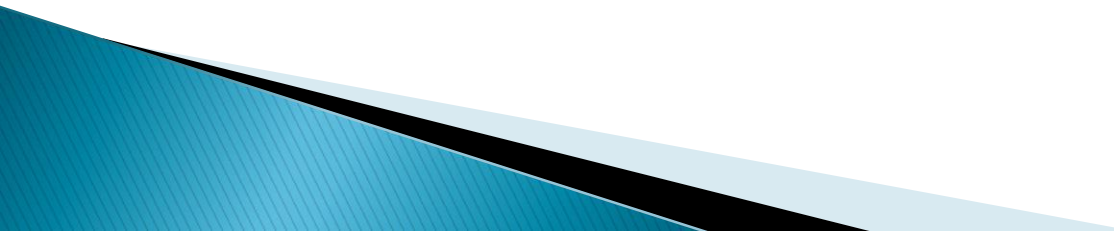
**Presented by:
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9 Ethics of Debate

1. HAVE EMPATHY

- ▶ People are well
- ▶ They are intentionally being evil
- ▶ Don't waste time in debate with them.
- ▶ They actually believe it is the right position to take.
- ▶ Hate positions, beliefs, policies, and actions but love people.

2. BE CLEAR

- ▶ Using different semantics=hours of argument
 - ▶ Be clear with your definitions
 - ▶ Don't make judgments at the beginning and don't jump to conclusions.
 - ▶ Ask questions – especially about words such as love, religion, government, spiritual, moral, better, believe, wrong, etc.
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3. STAY FOCUSED

As emotions rise, it is easy to turn debate into a vendetta.

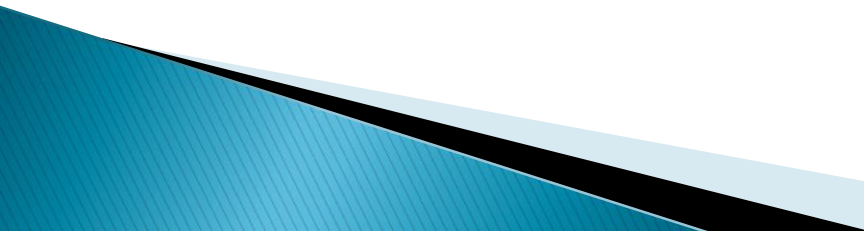
- ▶ The purpose of debate, in the free thought spirit, is not to demoralize your opponent, to make yourself look or feel good, or to enact revenge for other statements.

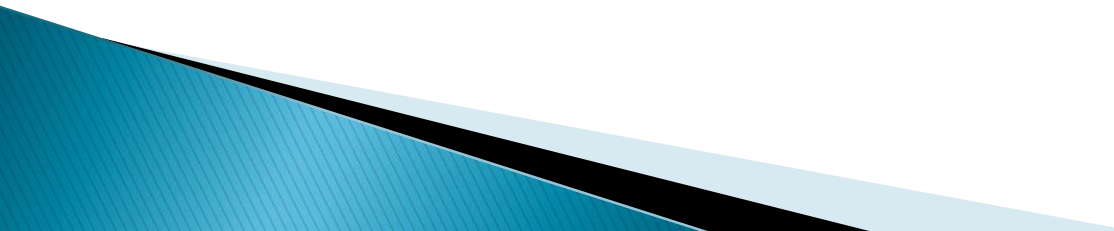
- ▶ There is only one proper purpose for such discussion, and that is to **find truth** – no matter what the consequences or implications of such conclusions.

4-DON'T WASTE TIME IN COMBAT

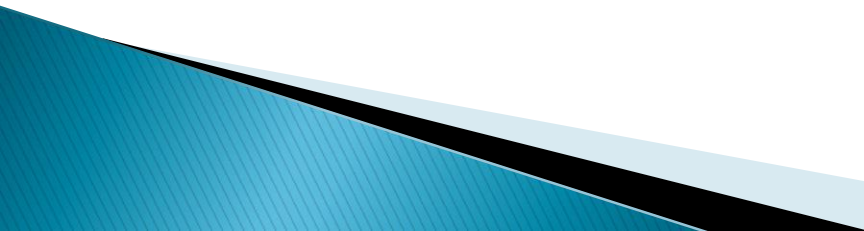


5-KEEP COOL

- ▶ Use wording for insulting intentionally. It is best to end the conversation. If the insults are part of the argument itself, there are a few things to keep in mind:
 - ▶ He or she may not realize how offensive the remarks are to you.
 - ▶ Secondly, this may only be an exaggerated word used to over stress a concept.
 - ▶ Most importantly, focus on their intentions – not how you perceive them.
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- ▶ If the words are offensive to you but you have every reason to believe the person wasn't intending to offend, then don't worry about it.
 - ▶ In the end, remember that **words are just words** – get tougher skin and move on.
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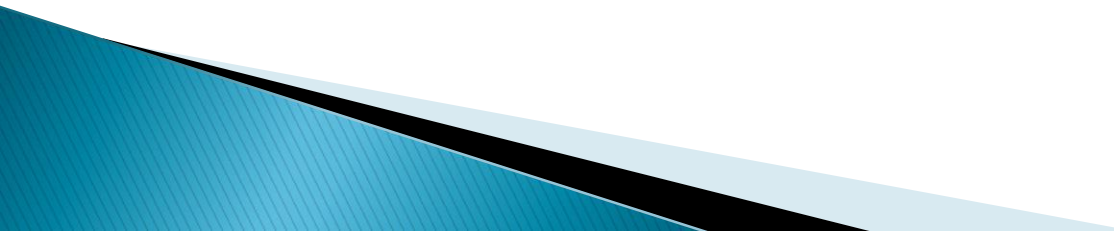
6-REVENGE IS POINTLESS

- ▶ If offended in any case, simply tell them their words are offensive and why but do not answer with equal offense – there's no point to it.
 - ▶ When you engage in revenge talk, you ensure that you will not be listened to, your position will not be spread, and you will likely hurt the cause for which you fight.
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7-CRITICIZE POSITIONS & ACTIONS – NOT PEOPLE

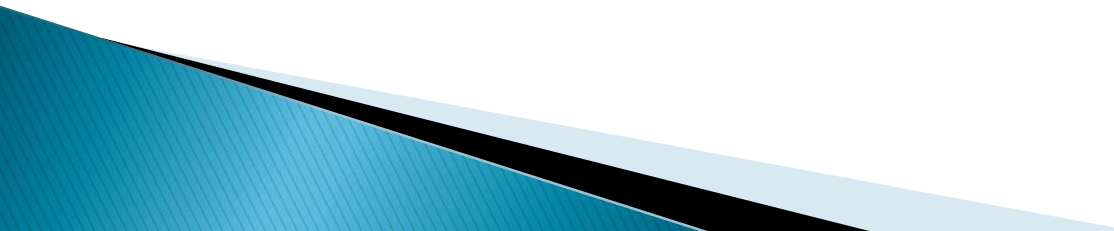
- ▶ Insulting people is a completely separate task from debating. Insults never make your point better than plain facts. It is best to stick to the issues at hand.

8-DON'T MARRY YOUR POSITION

- ▶ Your position is not you.
 - ▶ Letting others know when they are right is a way to "cash in" on your open mindedness and not only improve relations but set a good example, which will encourage open mindedness in others too.
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9-FORGET ABOUT WINNING

- ▶ When two people disagree, either one of them is wrong, or both of them are. This presents a good opportunity for learning and improvement – maybe for him or her but also maybe for you.

- ▶ If you win the argument you have helped to enlighten someone else, but if you lose then you are the most fortunate of the two, for you have learned something new today.
 - ▶ Finding or spreading the truth is more important than you.
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Thanks