



Bridging the Divide Code of Ethics

Adopted 11/30/2011

We want to do everything possible to ensure that our interaction is helpful, fruitful, and able to make a positive contribution to the cause of Christ and his glory in the church and among the unreached. We intend the Bridging the Divide network to be a safe context for God's children to speak our minds freely without fear of being misrepresented or personally attacked either during or after any interaction within our network. To that end, as a part of your joining the BtD (Bridging the Divide) Network, we ask you to state your agreement to the following.

Evangelical Relationships Commitment

Practical Resolutions of the Evangelical Alliance¹

<http://www.eauk.org/about/practical-resolutions.cfm>

Affirmations

1. We welcome as Christian brothers and sisters all who experience the grace of new birth, bringing them to that fear and knowledge of God which is expressed in a life of obedience to His word.
2. We recognize our Christian duty of trust and mutual encouragement to all who serve Christ as Lord, not least to those who conscientiously prefer not to be identified with the same churches, alliances or councils as ourselves.
3. We respect the diversity of culture, experience and doctrinal understanding that God grants to His people, and acknowledge that some differences over issues not essential to salvation may well remain until the end of time.

Actions

4. We urge all Christians to pray as Christ prayed, that we may be one in the Father and the Son, and so by the Spirit promote personal relationships of love, peace and fellowship within the Body of Christ, His universal Church.
5. We encourage all Christians earnestly to contend for biblical truth, since only as we are open to learn from others and yield fuller obedience to the truth will we be drawn closer to Christ and to each other.
6. We call on each other, when speaking or writing of those issues of faith or practice that divide us, to acknowledge our own failings and the possibility that we ourselves may be mistaken, avoiding personal hostility and abuse, and speaking the truth in love and gentleness.
7. We owe it to each other, in making public comment on the alleged² statements of our fellow Christians, first to confer directly with them and to establish what was actually intended. Then to

¹ Practical Resolutions of the Evangelical Alliance is an update of the original eight general resolutions crafted when the Evangelical Alliance was formed in 1846. Endorsed by Evangelical Alliance Council and the Evangelical Leaders Forum (a diverse group jointly facilitated by the Evangelical Alliance and the British Evangelical Council) the new document is now being commended to wider evangelicalism as a guide to our relationships as we work out our evangelical witness in the world.

² This sentence applies only to alleged statements. Documented public statements are directly subject to public interaction.

commend what we can, to weigh the proportional significance of what we perceive to be in error, and to put a charitable construction on what is doubtful, expressing all with courtesy, humility and graciousness.

8. We rejoice in the spread of the Gospel across the world and urge all Christians to commit themselves to this task, avoiding unnecessary competition and co-operating, wherever possible, in the completion of Christ's kingdom of peace, justice and holiness, to the glory of the one God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

In our BtD Context this Means that:

1. In all I say or write, I will work to obey the commands of Ephesians 4:29: "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."
2. I expect that others involved in the BtD network:
 - a) are brothers and sisters in Christ, thus all the biblical "one another" commands apply to our interaction. (e.g. love one another, forgive one another, bear with one another, accept one another, do not judge one another, admonish one another, be kind to one another, submit to one another in the fear of Christ, encourage one another and build each other up, don't grumble against each other.)
 - b) are willing to both learn and repent as needed, from the teaching, instructions, corrections, and even the gracious rebukes of others
 - c) are committed to honor the reputation of each participant
 - d) are devoted to verifying, researching and communicating in a Christ-honoring ethos
 - e) sincerely long for Muslims of all tribes, tongues and nations to come to a saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
3. In representing another's point of view
 - a) I will not share negative information about someone, when I know or even suspect that what is being shared is not entirely true.
 - b) I will not share damaging information beyond the scope of where the repentance is needed and the principles of Matthew 18:15-18.
 - c) I will avoid projecting or assuming the motives of others.
 - d) I will not generalize what one person does to a whole group of people.
 - e) I will avoid passing on hearsay (unconfirmed information I have not seen or heard first-hand). The first report to reach me is rarely the full story. I will make an effort to get confirmation directly from the person involved that what I am communicating is accurate. If that is not possible I will ask someone who might be knowledgeable and discerning enough to clarify, deny or confirm the report.
 - f) I will avoid name calling or negative labeling of people (describing others with the noun form of negative words such as "heretic," "extractionist" "a cancer," etc.). We are not trying to limit the critique of ideas or actions, but we want to avoid ad hominem³ attacks on individuals or ministries.
4. In sharing personal convictions
 - a) I will help others feel safer by trying to present strong convictions and critiques as "I think, or I believe" statements. (e.g., "In my opinion, that is unbiblical" rather than "That is

³ Attacking an opponent's motives or character rather than the policy or position they maintain.

unbiblical.” Also “In my opinion,” “as I understand this passage,” “as I understand what is happening,” etc.)

5. When ministering within a fellow-believer’s sphere of influence, I will not misuse the occasion by trying to convey perspectives inconsistent with their values and ministry approach.

When I am Writing for Publication:

1. I will aim to have the topic and purpose of my material be clear and reflect a commitment to honoring God, discovering truth, applying Scripture, evaluating theories and practices, and advancing God’s Kingdom.
2. I will aim to have the content of my material be accurate, and its argumentation free of logical, verbal, and material fallacies.
3. I will aim to disclose all information I consider significant to the argument, whether it is supportive or adversative. I will not withhold, dismiss or distort mitigating data known to me, to make my argument appear stronger than it is.
4. I will adequately and accurately acknowledge all sources, contributors, and co-authors.
5. I will not knowingly or carelessly misrepresent data or the views of others.
 - a) Citations of content from published sources will be accurate in every respect and cited with sufficient bibliographic data to enable readers to find and verify the information cited from those sources.
 - b) Wherever possible, I will quote rather than paraphrase source information, within the limits of copyright law, with enough text or background to prevent interpretations contrary to the original context.
 - c) Citations of personal correspondence will be faithful to the correspondence cited, with the correspondents having given permission for their views to be represented in the article in the way they have.
 - d) Information derived from personal observation will be as accurate as possible and free of fabrications, hearsay or conjecture.
 - e) I will keep conjectures of fact to a minimum. Any conjectures will be clearly indicated as such, and all conclusions derived from conjectures will be clearly presented as contingent on those conjectures.
6. I will keep my publications free of confidential information that could jeopardize other people.
7. Any photos or case studies used in a published piece will be used only with the permission of those concerned, with the identities of people and places masked, if desired by those affected. Where sensitive information is involved, this permission will be forwarded to the editor.
8. I will keep my writing free of plagiarism, neither quoting nor paraphrasing the words of others without attribution, nor using their research without acknowledgement.
9. I will treat other authors and differing viewpoints fairly and respectfully, avoiding any personal attacks, innuendo, rumor, condescension, and ad hominem argumentation.

When I Serve as a Peer Reviewer:

1. I will produce the review in a timely manner.
2. I will keep the content of the manuscript strictly confidential, not sharing it with others and not using its data and conclusions until it is published.
3. I will point out shortcomings and suggest specific ways to improve the article.