

Guide for Fruitful Dialogue

- A Personal Word from Chris

Since the Lord first launched this internet teaching ministry some years ago, I've become more aware than ever how diverse the prophetic community is. In the "old days" of handwritten and mailed circulations, I knew my readers personally. But in the internet era, I don't know most of my readers and also am powerless to target the sheep this work is really designed to help.

Spiritual teaching is a magnet for contention, especially prophetic teaching. A burden rests on teachers to preserve the Spirit's unity while trying to help people forward in their thinking—something that means challenging immature or erroneous thinking, and so risking friction. Writing to the unknown world of the internet multiplies this risk many times over.

To lessen this risk, the true teacher has to discern between fruitful and unfruitful dialogue. Fruitful dialogue fulfills the purpose of ministry. Unfruitful dialogue hinders it. The earlier then that such discerning can happen, the more fruitful our relationship can be, the less opportunity for needless contention with those for whom this teaching ministry is "not a match."

To this end I've been led to write this "*Guide for Fruitful Dialogue*." This Guide outlines the spiritual terms on which I'm available for dialogue in response to the articles here or to other issues and questions you may have. Your understanding of these guidelines can save us both unnecessary heartache should this ministry not be a match for you. Here they are:

1. Fruitful dialogue involves thoughtful listening as well as speaking. If you want to engage me on a topic, I will do my best to listen to you with the ears the Lord gives me and respond with a fair, faithful and gracious spirit that speaks directly to your issue. If I perceive underlying issues in your spirit, I will speak to these also. I ask in return that you commit to listen (not react) to what I have said and, should you respond further, do so from a listening heart. This is vital to keeping the Spirit of unity since neither of us can promise the other an agreeable answer, and especially because *tone and intent behind email is easily misunderstood*.

2. Concerning Correction: In my heart of hearts, I consider myself no more than an "ordinary guy" in search of truth that presents men perfect in Christ. (I am no "Dr." and don't wish to convey an exalted self-image.) But I have been granted a gift of wisdom for perception regarding prophetic truth and a call to share it. My call is to build in areas of truth where others are not, and so fill a void. But I am not "all seeing and all knowing." I am a thoughtful listener to others. My capacity to teach is built on my capacity to be taught. *Therefore*, I am open to heartfelt questioning and challenges from equally earnest seekers who demonstrate a fuller mind of the Lord on any issue than I have and are able

to present their case in harmony with the spirit of this Guide. My goal is to remain approachable and teachable in the process of teaching. *I especially welcome prayer from any who sincerely believe I am misled in any area.* However, once I have reproven a position and been brought to a firmness in it by the Lord, I may not soften that position to please you. It is the standard of truth I have been convicted to bear. If this is disagreeable to you, you must move on to another pasture. This is not an indication of unteachability on my part.

2. I am not at liberty to respond to: lengthy revelations, treatises, etc; flames, insults or other emotionally barbed negative rhetoric; emotionally baited questions designed to cloud objective discussion and evoke argument; anonymous letters; *complements* based on agreement regarding the errors of others, and slander of third party ministers—even if they are false ministers (By slander, I mean negative emotional agreement regarding ministers for its own sake. I don't mean discreet objective discussion of the false teachings or practices of ministers as necessary to rescue others from error.)

3. A special word to “prophets without a home” (including intercessors and worshippers.) Having lived for years in the desert of “organized church” misunderstanding, I have a special heart for out-of-place prophetic saints. I empathize with you and my desire is for your eventual acceptance and place of wholeness in the Lord’s House in His time. Prophets and apostles without homes are in a time of deep process instruction and perfection in the Lord. And they are hungry for a hearing! To you I say: I welcome your *measured on-point comments and responses* in accord with the above. You have suffered enough misunderstanding as it is. However, I’m unable to “become an ear” for your own treatises on prophetic issues which the Lord is still developing in you. For this you must await the Lord’s time of release to your own audience. Nor can I forge a relationship with you around the evils of the larger church—valid as your perceptions of them are. Allow me to be an encourager to you. But understand the limits of what I can be to you. If you write me what amount to your own personal treatises on issues and/or diatribes against the church, I will be unable to continue dialogue with you.

4. A Word to Overseas Ministries seeking Prayer and Aid: I welcome any and all appeals for intercession and aid from overseas ministries. We will pray for your requests. I deeply regret however our limitation to meet your concrete needs. We refer all requests for Bibles and Christian literature to Edwin L. Hodges Ministries in Decatur, Alabama, USA. You can reach them directly at www.elhm.org. We are unable to meet requests for financial support without a way to personally verify your ministry. We require bona fide personal relationship connections in order to provide financial support.

Sincerely,

Chris Anderson
First Love Ministry
03/06