

Ten Rules for Respect in a Healthy Church

- 1. If you have a concern or question for me, come and speak directly to me. If I have a concern or question for you, I will speak directly to you.*
- 2. If someone has a concern or question for me and comes to you, send them to me. I'll do the same for you.*
- 3. If someone who has a concern or question for me, and consistently will not come to me, say to them, "Let's go to see Ernie together. I am sure he will see us about this." I will do the same for you.*
- 4. Be careful how you interpret me – I'd rather do that. On matters that are unclear, do not feel pressured to interpret my feelings or thoughts. It is easy to misinterpret intentions. If you're unsure about something I've said, just ask.*
- 5. I will be careful how I interpret you. I will ask you if I'm not sure.*
- 6. Practice "Positive Presupposition." Believe that we all have the best of intentions in all that we do. All of us are doing the best we can with what we have. This is how God sees us!*
- 7. If it's confidential, don't tell. If you or anyone else comes to me in confidence, I won't tell unless a) the person is going to harm himself, b) the person is going to physically harm someone else, c) a child has been physically or sexually abused. I expect the same from you.*
- 8. Anonymous concerns brought forward are not helpful. It can lead to misinterpretation and misunderstanding. I do not read unsigned letters or notes. Conversations that begin with, "People are saying..." or "Someone has a concern..." are best avoided.*
- 9. I do not manipulate; I will not be manipulated; do not let others manipulate you. Do not let others manipulate me through you. I will not preach "at" you on Sunday mornings. I will leave conviction to the Holy Spirit (She does it better anyway!).*
- 10. When in doubt, just ask. The only dumb questions are those that don't get asked. We are a family here and we care about each other, so if you have a concern, pray, and then (if led) speak up. If I can answer it without misrepresenting something, someone, or breaking a confidence, I will.*