

ETIQUETTE FOR THE DIALOG

by

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SUMMARY

1. Opening prayers should be carefully selected so as to be inoffensive to all participants.
2. Special care should be observed in the use of jokes and/or humorous anecdotes in an interfaith setting.
3. Courtesy titles and appropriate expressions must be used in reference to the sacred personages and features of each faith.
4. Interfaith courtesy requires respect for other participants' beliefs, values and religious customs.
5. Respect for the individual's freedom of conscience and for what he or she holds in good faith should be emphasized and fostered.
6. Dialog does not authorize the minimizing of differences found in the opposite faith in the interest of agreement on a least common denominator or on only those elements held in common by both faiths.
7. Exposition of basic beliefs should be done in a positive and affirmative manner not in a negative, attacking, or unfavorably contrasting way.
8. Special care must be taken to avoid the laying on of a load of guilt for past intergroup hostilities, wars, and/or persecutions.