

# Rules of Engagement: Speaking Effectively to an Interdenominational Audience

Teleconference Debrief  
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A big thank you to Laurie, my assistant, and to our teleconference guests for bearing with me as I was calling enroute, after being detained in another city on the night of the call! God was merciful and the call went on... despite my absence from home base!

During this conference we will be thinking of our interdenominational event as a hotel: It is not a hotel nor does it need to be in or include a hotel, but an interdenominational event should resemble a hotel in many ways--and using the hotel illustration will help us understand a few of the important points.

Denominations are a relatively new phenomenon. The first official denomination began in the 1500s and today there are hundreds, if not thousands of different denominations.

Yet we all know that in heaven there is but ONE denomination: God's Children.

Down here, we have to tread carefully when following God's lead in organizing an interdenominational event, but we CAN DO THIS THING!

For the purpose of this training session, we will address how to host an interdenominational women's event where:

- #1 - the hosting committee can all agree to the basic tenets of Christian faith.
  - le - Billy Graham's Statement of Faith (attached). Billy Graham has been the most successful host of interdenominational events in history. We can learn much from him!
- #2 - both Christians and non-Christians may be in attendance.

Moving to your worksheets:

Hotel Wishes - Great beds for good rest  
Nutritious and delicious food instead of canned sardines  
Quiet, so I can rest  
A hot (or cold, as the case may be) shower  
No insects, rodents, other pests  
Clean linen and bathrooms  
Pleasing temperatures

In our analogy:

The hotel owner is GOD.  
The hotel manager is THE EVENT PLANNER.  
The maitre de is THE SPEAKER.  
The bells hops are THE PRAYER TEAM.

Three critical components of hosting an interdenominational event:

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- 1 – Greet the guests
- 2 – Leave the baggage with the bell hops.
- 3 – Extend hospitality

Clear mission and vision statements lead to clear goals and action steps.

If you don't know about mission/vision statements, check out that teleconference at:  
<http://www.leadershipattitudes.com>

Things to keep in mind:

- 1, We have invited guests.
2. We are there to provide them with true and lasting rest and nourishment.
3. We are not there to fix them.

Expanding on the three critical stay components:

1. Greet the guests
  - a. Let them know you are friendly and approachable.
  - b. Let them know that you were expecting them!
  - c. Let them know they are safe.
  - d. Let them know that they are your priority. You are there for them.
2. Leave the baggage with the bellhops.
  - a. EVERYBODY has baggage.
    - 1) Could be hidden sin.
    - 2) Could be an abusive past
    - 3) Could be a doctrinal difference
  - b. The people to handle the baggage are the bell hops.
    - 1) The bell hops are the prayer team.
  - c. Managers & Maitre de's do not talk about or handle baggage.
    - 1) No denominational differences should be addressed verbally;
    - 2) No particular sin should be pointed out, only sin in general.
3. Extend Hospitality
  - a. The manager is responsible to oversee that the event is structured and run in such a way that each guest leaves refreshed and encouraged for the next leg of their journey.

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At the end of the call the conversation steered toward knowing God's will when venturing into full-time speaking as a ministry.

Buffy St. John, of Declare the Word Ministries (<http://www.declaretheword.com>), shared God's heart for every speaker when she encouraged us to let God open and shut the doors of speaking opportunity.

God bless you all. I truly enjoyed our time together!

In His Loving Arms,  
Marnie  
<http://www.WomenSpeakers.com>

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### **The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association believes:**

- The Bible is the infallible Word of God, it is His holy and inspired Word, and it is of supreme and final authority.
- There is one God, eternally existing in three persons-Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. He led a sinless life, took on Himself all our sins, died and rose again, and is seated at the right hand of the Father as our mediator and advocate.
- All men everywhere are lost and face the judgment of God, and need to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ through His shed blood on the cross.
- Christ rose from the dead and is coming soon.
- We must engage in holy Christian living, and have concern for the hurts and social needs of our fellowmen.
- We must dedicate ourselves anew to the service of our Lord and to His authority over our lives.
- We believe in using every modern means of communication available to us to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

As found at:

<http://www.billygraham.org/StatementOfFaith.asp>