

CLASH DEBATE CLUB PHILOSOPHY

We are a Christian organization. Our work in Clash is and must be a facet of our Christian discipleship, helping us to become like our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, in love, truth, courage, and generosity.

In our relations within the club, and when representing the club to others, we strive to imitate our Master. We accept the scriptural teachings on love, unity, humility, and peace, such as this admonition from Paul (Colossians 3:12-17):

*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. **Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another.** Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

We expect to treat each other with honor and kindness (Romans 12:9-11), to speak truly and courteously (Ephesians 4:29-32), to aspire to righteousness and peace in our relationships (Matthew 5:4-11), to **serve each other with humility** (Matthew 20:25-28), to act helpfully and generously to each other (Galatians 6:9-10), and to **be mindful of each others' needs before our own** (Philippians 2:3-7ff). We aspire to show the kind of generosity to each other that God has shown to us (Luke 6:38).

The nature of our exercise is competitive, but our competition is not aimed at pride or domination, but rather at the sharpening of our own **and of each others' skills** (Proverbs 27:17). We learn **to argue effectively to support and refute ideas, not persons**. We strongly pursue excellence in debate, thereby becoming better speakers, researchers, and thinkers. In the end, our diligence in this is an offering to God (Colossians 3:23).

When we lose a round we are thankful for the exercise, and when we win one we encourage the team that lost. We strive not to be bitter, even after seemingly unjust losses. We strive not to be proud, even after a great performance.

In proper order, **we share with each other our research, insights, and plans**, expecting to prosper not from hoarded evidence or concealed cases, but from the sharpening we receive in our practice debates and team discussions.

We welcome strangers and seek to do them good. We are thankful to those who serve us. We love, serve, and pray for our opponents. We realize that **our wins and losses are momentary events**, but **the brothers and sisters whom we debate will be with us through eternity**.