

Appendix H – “How any person can benefit from our small group?”

Does an atheist, or any person, put their faith in the common good or in self interest?

If the common good, do they put their faith in others? Putting faith in others satisfies the innate psychological need of relatedness. Satisfying the innate psychological need of relatedness is a benefit. A sense of well being, mental health comes with relatedness.

The next question is relatedness to whom?

All others?

Every person?

If yes, relatedness is desired with all people, then an atheist, or any person, will satisfy an innate psychological need of relatedness.

Knowing the spiritual roots of others helps us to understand them better. Understanding differences of belief makes working out relatedness easier. So it is worth it for anyone to participate in this small group to increase understanding differences of belief.

Our small group is meant to be a flat group. No person takes precedence over any other person. When it comes to language, we choose “that which we value the most.” This levels the playing field for all.

When we talk in the particular about our own faith, we can be specific. This specificity is part of the charm of the whole group. Yet we are united in our protocol, which seeks to provide extreme value to each other, in helping each accomplish that which they value the most.

We will get an acquired attitude in our small group. Be united in faith in relatedness. Be respectful of differences. Interfaith dialogue consists essentially in hearing each other. Interfaith dialogue is living together in spite of our differences. Differences make sense when they are well understood.

According to the primary bodies which are responsible for setting principles of interfaith dialogue, avoid proselytizing during interfaith dialogue. Be true to your beliefs. State your own beliefs when appropriate. But mainly listen well, which means hearing an entire message. Build unity.

Accomplishing relatedness is done by doing that which is truly in the best interests of others. Academic Research from Deci and Ryan cited by over 14,000 shows relatedness satisfies an innate human need.

Doing that which is truly in the best interests of others is the instrumental means to relatedness.

Eventually we become related to fewer and fewer if we choose only self interest. But if we choose the common good, our circle of those to whom we become related grows and grows.

Our compassion for others grows. Our compassion for humanity grows. Our faith in accomplishing for the common good, that which we value the most, transitions naturally from being self-interested to being a fiduciary, or guardian, for other-relatedness. That is where sense of community comes from. If you have ever experienced sense of community, you know that man was built to be in community. It is how we are supposed to live.

By sense of community we mean an environment characterized by togetherness and sharing as opposed to cool detachment. The leaders in the environment know the members and go out of their way to be helpful. Though the members are quite diverse, personal diversity is celebrated for its contribution. There is a sense of group loyalty and group support. The atmosphere is cohesive. The environment is a community.

Having faith in accomplishing for the common good that which others value the most is extreme value. Compassion for others leads to compassion for self.

Compassion grows to seeing dignity in every human being without exception. Our healing hands become healing hands for others, like the famous group “Doctors Without Borders,” teams that deliver medical aid where it is needed most. So an atheist, or any person, can participate in this small group to explore the spiritual roots of their other-relatedness.

The benefit of this small group is growth in other-relatedness. Helping another accomplish for the common good that which they value the most is extreme value.

Our protocol comes from Loquate’s Smart® Protocol.

General Information: Loquate is officially recognized by the IRS in its published list of 501 c 3 charitable organizations. As such Loquate is a not for profit, not a business. Loquate is a retreat community for peace that uses technology, for intentional community building.

Loquate’s mission is to work with members of groups and organizations:

- To develop the member’s diversity and sense of shared humanity thru self awareness,
- To develop a sense of community in small groups of self aware members,
- To develop the sense of community within the larger group or organization of which they are a part,
- To develop the larger group or organization into a catalyst for the sense of community in its surrounding environment,
- To spread the sense of community throughout our fragile world using small incubator groups to serve as a model for peace.