



Theological, Cultural and Lifestyle Issues

The following is a very brief introduction to issues and concerns relevant to our ministry.

Theological Issues:

- It is not the goal of The Cross Ministry Group to get people to conform to a particular Christian theology. The ministry is comprised of Christians with diverse views theologically. Likewise, those who attend our weekends will bring their own beliefs.
- The Cross Ministry Group holds to core foundational beliefs (See “TCMG Philosophy and Core Values”). These foundational beliefs are centered on the essential truths of our Christian faith. They do not address the nonessential beliefs and values which are not fundamental to being a follower of Christ.
- We do not expect everyone who attends a weekend to completely understand or adhere to these beliefs. However, we welcome people where they are.
- Our Board of Directors, employed staff and core leadership within the ministry agree to share the ministry’s philosophy and core values.

Rock Work and diverse theological and lifestyle views:

- It is not our intention to expect people to conform to a specific theology. An attendee can present views of God which are not in line with TCMG’s values. We do not attempt to “correct” their views but to help them to become aware of the blocks in their life. They may or may not end up discovering something new about God on the weekend. We trust God for the outcome.
- People also come to our weekends with diverse positions on morality. Again, it is not our goal to change people’s morality, but rather to create a space where people can explore God without fear of judgment. We believe it is God’s place to speak to people about their moral choices.

Gay & Lesbian Concerns:

- It is common to welcome men and women to our weekends who identify as gay or lesbian.
- The ministry does not take a judgmental view, expressing rejection of those who embrace this orientation.
- When we are processing someone in Rock Work who identifies as gay or lesbian, we are there to support them in dealing with whatever block they share in their story, just as we would for any other person.
- Historically, we have experienced some staff members wanting to tell an attendee that their lifestyle is not acceptable to God, and he wants them to change. However, the ministry takes

the position that it is not our place to challenge a person in this way. Just as we would not judge a person who shares about other moral issues in their life, we choose not to judge gays or lesbians.

- Our goal is to hold space for everyone, regardless of their choices and how they live their life.
- We trust in God's power and love to meet us and transform us according to his will, as we come to him in brokenness.

The ministry's position is not an affirmation of life choices, but rather it is rooted in what we believe is the heart of God for all of us. He sees us and welcomes us as we are.

Racial Concerns in Rock Work:

We are grateful for the presence of brothers and sisters of color in this ministry, and we are desirous to see God to bind us all together on the healing journey. We believe it would please God for The Cross Ministry Group to be a diverse group of men and women that we might be a more whole expression of the Body of Christ.

It is our experience that people of color who attend our weekends are dealing with issues of race simply by being in a group composed primarily of white men and women. Wounds of prejudice, rejection and racism are part of their life experience. Some choose to take the significant risk of addressing these wounds in the context of the weekend.

Our goal as brothers and sisters in Christ is to create a safe space for people of color to be seen and heard. This might be the most significant offering of healing from white brothers and sisters – to listen, to see, and to affirm the life experience of people of color in our midst.

It is not our desire to defend, explain away, or deny our brothers and sisters' experience. This is a common experience in the culture at large and it does not reflect a safe and healing container.

A caution: Some white people tend to be overly sensitive and patronizing in an attempt to make people of color feel welcome and accepted. This is not helpful.

With all of this in mind we encourage facilitators and staff to be a safe container for people of all color and to approach their processes just as we would anyone else, but with the added awareness of our goal to witness with compassion and love whatever story our brothers and sisters bring to the group. It is all welcome.