

CRSnet Rules and Guidelines — Revised September 2015

Since its inception in 1994, we've developed and adopted various rules and guidelines by which CRSnet operates. Dr. John Meyer (jmgminaz@commspeed.net) is the current primary moderator who enforces the rules.

Anyone who violates a rule may, after repeated warnings and at the sole discretion of the Primary Monitor, be temporarily suspended from all CRSnet participation. The first temporary suspension will be for two weeks, with subsequent suspensions doubling each time. During a suspension, a person who uses other CRSnet members for continued posting of comments, or as channels to complain about the rules, may be subject to permanent removal. After three temporary suspensions, the violator will be permanently removed.

RULES

1) The names and affiliations of the participants **MUST NOT** be released outside of the group without their permission. Similarly, CRSnet posts cannot be published or reposted to other discussion groups without the permission of the author(s). CRSnet posts should not be shared with other personal friends and acquaintances.

2) Quoting

Generally, you should not include the entire text of the previous message in your reply. This is especially onerous when the previous message is more than a few lines long. PLEASE include only enough of the previous message to provide context for your reply. Often this can be accomplished with only a few carefully selected lines of the previous message.

3) Over quoting

This occurs when someone replies to someone else's reply to another reply, and so on. The result is something like:

A wrote:

>

> B wrote:

>>

>> C wrote:

>>>

>>> At 10:14 AM 10/27/97 -0500, you wrote:

>>>>D wrote:

>>>>>

This is to be discouraged. Please take the time to edit your response so that no more than one or at the most two levels are included.

4) Do not press <enter> at the end of every line to force a new line.

Most modern email readers, automatically insert soft returns at the end of each line if they are too long for the screen. These unnecessary hard returns may cause text to be displayed as a series of alternating long and short lines, making the messages difficult to read. If for some reason you need to insert hard returns, please ensure that the lines are no longer than 70 characters.

5) “Way to go,” “Amen,” and “Thank you” replies; personal messages

These replies add nothing to the discussion. If you wish to simply agree with someone else, to only congratulate someone for a previous reply, or just to thank someone, send a message to that person privately — NOT to the group.

In a similar vein, if someone indicates that he has material he is willing to send privately, your request for the material should be sent privately.

Messages that are strictly meant as personal correspondence should not be sent to the list.

6) Attachments and embedded images or text

Due to the danger of viruses being sent via email attachments, the server processing CRSnet messages has been set to NOT accept emails with attachments. Therefore, do not include attachments with your postings. If you do, your messages will be rejected. In like manner, embedded images or text may contain viruses, etc. Please do not embed anything in your posts or signature line.

7) Number of posts

Due to space limitations on the server, we have set the daily limit to 100 from all participants in total. To help achieve this, we have set an individual limit of 4 **REPLIES** per day. This also helps to deter those who feel they must reply to everything. An occasional exception is OK, but repeated transgressions will not be tolerated. If you want to reply to several posts on the same topic, include them all in one reply.

Of course, there is no limit (within reason) to the number of new topics you can post.

8) Off-topic posts

Perhaps this will help clear up any misgivings about what is appropriate for CRSnet.

The main purpose of CRSnet is, as you all know, the discussion of creation and evolution from a young-earth creation perspective. This necessarily involves predominantly scientific matters. However, since the subject of origins has philosophical and metaphysical overtones, we must deal with these implications as well. And of course,

with Scripture as our foundation, we will from time to time discuss biblical passages that pertain to creation and the Flood.

Certain “off topic” matters are welcome because they usually do not degenerate into lengthy discussions. For example, David Harris’ listing of science fair projects was informative and encouraging. The seeking of advice from fellow Christians is permitted. However, if the latter is not related to creation/evolution, then private responses should be solicited. And, of course, an occasional humorous posting is often a welcome relief. Likewise, occasional prayer requests may be made.

There are some theological discussions that have nothing to do with creation/evolution (e.g., would Jesus have died anyway, sinless bodies, could Jesus have sinned, the conception of Jesus, the Trinity, Holy Spirit baptism, center of God’s creation/universe, etc.). These should obviously be avoided.

Political postings are off-topic with the possible exception of specific matters dealing DIRECTLY with creation issues. It is not appropriate to mention "creation" in the first paragraph, then in subsequent paragraphs get in additional "digs" about one candidate and/or make recommendations about supporting or not supporting another candidate. In other words, it is not appropriate to use creation as a stealth issue to make political points or to promote hidden agendas.

Also, CRSnet is not the place to discuss rumors, innuendo, or grievances concerning other creation organizations and creationists. Positive news reports about other creationists and creation organizations are fine, but negative commentary should be avoided.

The following additional list of previous off-topic discussions should provide you with an idea of what not to discuss. Looking back on some of these, one wonders how we ever got off on such tangents.

- => the KJV debate (including reliability of various manuscripts, etc.)
- => prozac (some of you old-timers will remember this one!)
- => HIV and the cause of AIDS
- => eschatology
- => free will / election
- => adoption of the metric system
- => Diana, the Monarchy, Mother Teresa, and televangelism
- => common law
- => Bob Dylan
- => vegetarianism, meat eating
- => UFOs
- => Ellen White
- => Barak Obama’s citizenship

IMPORTANT: If someone just happens to mention something which “pulls your chain” but is off topic, PLEASE resist the temptation to set that person straight via CRSnet. If you really feel that the issue should be discussed further, and that it can be done so civilly and in a Christian manner, then do so by replying directly to that person (i.e., privately off-net).

9) Character and attitude

We will not tolerate unchristian behavior, language, and attitudes. It's fine to be critical of the ideas expressed on CRSnet, but each participant shall be treated with respect. Your responses should be about the topic under discussion, not your opinion about the character or scholarship of others on CRSnet.

10) Computer virus warnings

It is our general policy that such “warnings” should not be posted on CRSnet. If a warning is in fact true, there will be plenty of other venues for notification of computer users.

11) Website links and URLs

Website links should not be sent without comment. Please include a brief description of the website, a reason why we should look at it, or a brief excerpt.

There is nothing else like CRSnet. This has been a great experience for all of us. Let's all do what we can to maintain its uniqueness and high standards.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

These are not rules, as such, but are suggestions that will help improve communication:

A) Do not post and then be the first one to reply to your own post. REVIEW / EDIT your post BEFORE you hit the “Send” button. If you don't have time for this, then you don't have time to write well thought-out posts. In general, ALL posts should be reviewed/edited to ensure their understandability and accuracy.

B) Be careful regarding your “Reply-to” address being set so that the reply goes only to the original sender and not the whole CRSnet. This has been a problem for years, and it crops up occasionally. It appears that certain e-mail environments (Yahoo seems to be a guilty culprit) set the “Reply to” address automatically to the sender's e-mail address. The CRSnet listserv does not (or cannot) overwrite this.

C) Please read ALL the posts in a thread before replying to any one of them. This prevents multiple people “saying the same thing again” which is annoying and wastes time and bandwidth.

D) Your comments when replying to a post should appear at the top of the e-mail rather than putting comments down below the post you are replying to — especially in a long post. Sometimes interspersing comments into the original post in a different color may be appropriate .

E) Please be careful with “Over-promotion” of a book or other product. A single announcement of publication of a new book is OK.

F) Use of ALL CAPITALS in subject line or body is not good netiquette. Capitals provide EMPHASIS and should only be used as such.