



Thinking About Our Words

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Questions to consider, discuss or journal.

1. Is it possible that sometimes the language we use, model and teach is creating stumbling blocks for ourselves and our membership?
2. Have you had the experience of feeling alienated by the language used in your faith community? Have you felt excluded? Or have you unintentionally alienated another individual with its' use?
3. What alienating words or practices can you identify in your Christadelphian experience? Throughout the article, the Author cites several examples like "The Truth" or using only a specific Bible translation, what others come to mind or resonated most with you?
4. How does your meeting welcome guests? Have you been a guest at a meeting? Have you brought visitors to your meeting? What have these experiences been like?
5. Have you experienced insincere inclusivity, like using or hearing the term "everyone" or "anyone" when it wasn't accurate? What was that experience? How did it feel?
6. If we are hung up on being exclusive in our language, we need to ask ourselves: why is it important to me to be exclusive and is exclusivity something Christ considers important?
7. How can we as a faith community be more aware of the audience at our meetings, to avoid triggering words, topics and Bible passages?
8. Why do you read from your particular translation of the Bible? Have you ever switched translations? What was the reason? What translation is most used at your meeting?
9. What changes can you and your church community make to be more purposeful in using words that encourage, bring together and foster love and acceptance among its' young people, members and larger community?