

NON-DENOMINATIONALISM

(How to Relate to Others of Differing Viewpoints)

	Biblical Convictions	Biblical Persuasions	Biblical Opinions
Nature of Belief	Non-negotiables in the Scriptures; Christians around the world and throughout history.	Options within biblical parameters; the basis for many denominations.	Variable based on Scripture and according to conscience.
How Scripture Informs Them	Main themes and assertions of the Bible; foundational truths of Christianity	Supported by fewer passages of Scripture; or only indirectly addressed by Scripture; peripheral issues.	Matters of application or interpretation of Scripture
Relating to People who believe differently	Be willing to be persecuted for these truths; be willing to break Christian fellowship over these truths	Be free to express views, but to treat those who differ with respect; seek to understand other viewpoints	Speak tentatively and with humility; Talk about your opinions rather than “the Bible says...”
Examples	Authority of Scripture Deity of Christ Salvation by grace through faith Sinfulness of humanity Substitutionary atonement	Believers vs. Infant Baptism Millennial viewpoints Spiritual Gifts Gender roles in the church and the home Christian Experience and Spiritual Formation Cultural engagement (escape, defeat, or transform)	Political affiliation Date of Christ’s return Going to movies Alcohol use or abstinence Fashion Age of the Earth Worship Styles

*adapted from “Levels of Belief: How to Relate to Others of Differing Viewpoints,” developed by Gene Heacock.