

Rules for Respect in a Healthy Church

1. If you have a concern or question about someone, go and speak directly to that person.
2. If someone who has a concern or question for someone else, and consistently will not go to that person, say to them, "Let's go to see _____ together. I am sure he/she will see us about this."
3. Be careful how you interpret someone's actions and communications. It is easy to misinterpret intentions. If you're unsure about the intention, ask that person directly.
4. Practice "Positive Presupposition." Believe that we all have the best of intentions in all that we do. All of us are doing the best we can with what we have. This is how God sees us!
5. If anyone goes to a person in-confidence, don't tell anyone else unless a) the person is going to harm himself, b) the person is going to physically harm someone else or, c) a child has been physically or sexually abused.
6. Anonymous concerns brought forward are not helpful. It can lead to misinterpretation and misunderstanding. Do not read unsigned letters or notes. Conversations that begin with, "People are saying..." or "Someone has a concern..." are best avoided.
7. Do not manipulate people; do not let others manipulate you. Do not let others manipulate others through you.
8. When in doubt, just ask. The only dumb questions are those that don't get asked. We are a family at St. Luke's and we care about each other! If you have a concern, pray, and then (if led) speak up.