

Ten Questions to Ask Before Beginning an Activity

1. Does this activity *build community* and/or seek the *common good* for all?
2. Do all participants help *determine for themselves* the activity's goals and whether they will participate?
3. Are there opportunities to develop long-term, direct *relationships* between participants who are *diverse* in terms of age, class, race, or other factors?
4. Do the words and actions *respect* all the participants and their cultures?
5. Does the partnership allow all participants to share their gifts, talents, wisdom, and resources *mutually* and *equally*?
6. Is there good *stewardship* of resources?
7. Do all participants have the opportunity to evaluate the activity, especially for undesirable *consequences*?
8. Is there *awareness* whether the activity temporarily addresses a problem and/or whether it attempts to change the root causes of the problem?
9. Can participants together or can I individually *sustain* participation in the activity over time?
10. Is the activity a *good fit* for the groups and/or me in terms of our/my passions, gifts, resources, time, etc.?

When we Christians consider how we should put our faith into action, we first must seek God's guidance and will through contemplative prayer and study of the Scriptures. When we do so, we see that these ten questions are deeply rooted in the Old and New Testament command, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (see for example, Leviticus 19:18 and Mark 12:31). We also see that the Apostle Paul put these criteria into practice when he told the Corinthians, "Now there are *varieties of gifts*, but the *same Spirit*; and there are *varieties of services*, but the *same Lord*; and there are *varieties of activities*, but it is the *same God* who activates *all* of them in *everyone*. To *each* is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the *common good*." (1 Corinthians 12:4-7 NRSV, italics added).

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Revised July 1, 2008