

Queries for Friends Regarding the Quaker Discernment Process

1. Do you value the meeting community as you do your own family? Do you treat Friends with tenderness, affirming their thoughts and efforts on behalf of the meeting community?
2. Are you mindful that the Quaker process of 'reaching the sense of the meeting' is more important than doing things in the way you personally think they should be done, because it stimulates emotional, social, and spiritual growth?
3. Are you aware that when the Quaker process is being guided by the Spirit, relationships are enhanced, personal growth is experienced, and love is nurtured? Conversely, are you aware that the fruitage of the ego is the destruction of relationships, a depression of the spirit, and fear and distrust of others?
4. While tending to Friends business do you recognize the sacredness of the Quaker process by avoiding personal prejudices about others tending to Friends business along side of you? Do you at least let go of these prejudices during the conduct of Friends business, seeking 'that of God' in each Friend present?
5. When you come to transact Friends business with thoughts and opinions, do you turn them over to the group as a whole as the Spirit leads you? Do you then have enough humility to join with the group in objectively testing these leadings against Truth?
6. Do you join others present in seeking Truth; or do you emotionally, intellectually, or spiritually separate yourself while the sense of the meeting is formulating, and then in effect "pronounce judgement" on the sense of the meeting?
7. During the transaction of Friends business do you recognize the difference between "standing your ground" over moral, charitable, and spiritual concerns versus "standing your ground" over procedural, financial, and inconsequential details?
8. After thoughtful discussion, when your sense and the sense of the rest of the meeting are in opposition, do you question yourself to ensure that you are truly being led by the Spirit. If you are, do you strive to find a 'way opening' which will *lovingly* bring the rest of the meeting to Truth? When the sense of the rest of the meeting appears to be unchangeable, do you consider 'stepping aside' in order to allow peace and harmony to prevail?
9. Do you avoid politicking before Friends business proceedings in order to control or manipulate the outcome? Do you trust that the Spirit will ensure that Truth emerges and you do not have to take this on as *your* job?
10. In your every action and deed during or apart from Friends business, do you strive to build genuine, loving relationships with others? Do you realize that through such relationships your experience of God and Truth will reach its full potential?