

Guidelines – What Are They, Why Do We Need Them And What Goes In Them?

I. What Are Guidelines?

Dictionary Definition:

A guideline is a statement by which to determine a course of action. A guideline aims to streamline particular processes according to a set routine or sound practice. By definition, following a guideline is never mandatory. Guidelines are not binding and are not enforced.

guideline

1. A non-specific **rule** or **principle** that provides **direction** to action or behaviour.
We should consider the Ten Commandments more a requirement than a guideline.
2. A plan or explanation to guide one in setting standards or determining a course of action.
3. A light line, used in lettering, to help align the text.

rule

1. A regulation, law, guideline.
2. A ruler; device for measuring, a straightedge, a measure.
3. A straight line (continuous mark, as made by a pen or the like), especially one lying across a paper as a guide for writing.
4. A regulating principle.
5. A normal condition or state of affairs. As a rule our senior editors are serious-minded.

principle

1. A fundamental assumption.
We need some sort of principles to reason from.
2. A rule used to choose among solutions to a problem.
The principle of least privilege holds that a process should only receive the permissions it needs.
3. Moral rule or aspect.
I don't doubt your principles; you are clearly a person of principle.
It's the principle of the thing; I won't do business with someone I can't trust.
4. A rule or law of nature, or the basic idea on how the laws of nature are applied.
5. A fundamental essence, particularly one producing a given quality.

Direction - The action of directing; pointing (something) towards.

II. Why Do We Need Guidelines?

People ask “why do we need guidelines?” You’re just trying to tell us what to do – that’s controlling, etc.

The Holy Spirit wrote the Bible (a book full of guidelines) and He said in **I Corinthians 14: 40**:

Let all things be done decently and in order. (KJV)

But all things should be done with regard to decency and propriety and in an orderly fashion. (AMP)

Holy Ghost writes everything down (Bible) & He is picky

Can’t blame the people – **Proverbs 29:18**:

Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he. (KJV)
cast off restraint (ASV); are uncontrolled (BBE); law and order disappear (CEV); shall be scattered abroad (DRB); decay (Geneva); one version says run lawless.

A nation without God's guidance is a nation without order. (GNB)

Habakkuk 2:2:

And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. (KJV)

And Jehovah answereth me and saith: `Write a vision, and explain on the tables, That he may run who is reading it. (YLT)

Guidelines are the vision:

Purpose of Guidelines:

Reveal what we want to accomplish and Stop strife

Guidelines are not to be used as whips, etc

They are to help us stay in the middle of the road & on task

Guidelines:

1. Give direction: **I Timothy 3:14-15:**

These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

2. Create Unity:

I Corinthians 1:10:

Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

3. Help Stop Strife:

Proverbs 24:5:

A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength. (KJV)

Increase -BDB Definition: to be strong, alert, courageous, brave, stout, bold, solid, hard

Knowing what's expected gives you strength & Boldness to do what needs to be done

4. Produces peace – When you have direction, walk in unity and not in strife that produces peace

III. What Should Be In Guidelines?

How To Set Them Up

1st make an appointment with senior leader:

Find out what is in their heart for your area

Don't ask how to do it - He may not know

Take the vision & go to the H.S. and ask Him how to produce the vision

The H.S. is responsible for the work of the ministry

What do you put in the guidelines?

One: Preparation prior to the service

Arrival time (different for different areas)

Prayer before service (where, what about, be specific)

Leave cares outside the department

Two: Functions during the service (again different)

Three: Dress

Four: Personal Hygiene

Want to help people find their place of service not just where they are needed at the present time.

Don't compromise your guidelines – guts enough to write have guts enough to stick

75% of communication is verbal & can be seen in the faces & attitudes of the workers