

## **Davenant Commons Community Code**

I recognize that the purpose of this forum is to build up one another in the love and knowledge of Christ, in deference to the bounds of historic Protestant orthodoxy, in service of the mission of the Davenant Institute, and in obedience to the norms of Christian charity, fidelity, and integrity, and I commit to conducting myself accordingly.

Specifically,

- (I) I affirm my commitment to the system of doctrine contained in the Reformed Protestant family of confessions, represented chiefly by the Augsburg Confession (Variata), the Thirty-Nine Articles, the Second Helvetic Confession, the Three Forms of Unity, the Westminster Confession, and the London Baptist Confession. Although I may take some exceptions to this system of doctrine on secondary points, I recognize all points where these confessions overlap will be treated as the assumed confessional basis of this community, and are not to be treated as “up for debate” although I am welcome to challenge these points for clarity and to better understand their biblical basis. In areas where these confessions differ from one another, or in doctrines left unspecified by them, I may have my own firm convictions but I commit to respect differing convictions of others in the group, welcoming vigorous debate but in a spirit of charity and brotherhood.
- (II) I understand and support the overarching mission of the Davenant Institute, and see this forum as an extension of that mission:
  - a. To fortify evangelical Christian laypeople with the confidence that orthodox Protestant doctrinal and moral convictions are rationally grounded in reality, history, and Scripture.
  - b. To equip evangelical pastors to more effectively counsel and shepherd their flocks by drawing on the insights of classical Protestant moral theology and spirituality.
  - c. To aid evangelicals serving in government and public policy to more effectively pursue justice by drawing on and creatively applying the collective wisdom of classical Protestant ethical and political theory.
  - d. To show critically-minded evangelical students that the Protestant tradition is vibrant, intellectually compelling, and comprehensively catholic.
  - e. To transmit the vibrancy of this heritage by demonstrating that it can be creatively drawn upon to address challenges that are, in some respects, unique to our own era and context.
  - f. To achieve the above goals by building networks of friendship and collaboration among evangelical scholars committed to Protestant resourcement, publishing resources old and new to address these five needs, and offering training and discipleship for Christians thirsting after wisdom.
- (III) I commit to conduct myself here in the forum in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, “with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:2-3). This includes, but is not limited to:
  - a. Avoiding lewd speech, crude jesting, or offensive/abusive remarks about other individuals (whether others on the forum or outsiders). Note, however,

that the standard here should be based on biblical principles and precedent, not prevailing cultural codes of political correctness.

- b. Always speaking truthfully and with integrity, and avoiding slander, gossip, misrepresentation, or plagiarism to the fullest of my ability.
- c. Maintaining strict confidentiality regarding any personal details or information shared by others in this group, and reasonable confidentiality about non-personal matters discussed on this list. This includes refraining from directly quoting on-forum comments to people off-forum, or even summarizing/paraphrasing them with identification of their source if they are on controversial subjects, without first seeking permission from the person you wish to quote or cite. Essentially, “do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”
- d. Conducting discussions on controversial topics with a determination to believe the best of others, their intentions, and their Christian commitment, giving the benefit of the doubt where possible and construing ambiguous remarks charitably; with the overarching goal of seeking truth together, not of winning an argument or building a coalition. If heated exchanges arise, members should seek reconciliation as quickly as possible following Matthew 18 principles.
- e. Deferring respectfully to the Moderators of the forum and likewise following Matthew 18 principles in any grievances you need to bring to them.