

A Sermon on Coercive Conversion

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for September 27th, 2020 (and beyond)

Oxford Languages via Google defines "Coercive" as "relating to or using force or threats." Cambridge defines "Coercive" as "using force to persuade people to do things that they are unwilling to do". Source: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/coercive> Findlaw.com reports "Most states have criminal charges for coercion and also allow for civil action by district attorneys or Attorneys General (for injunctive relief, for example). The statutory definition of coercion is fairly uniform among the states: the use of intimidation or threats to force (or prevent) someone to do something they have a legal right to do (or not to do). Charges typically are enhanced if physical force was used or threatened." Source: <https://criminal.findlaw.com/criminal-charges/what-is-coercion-law.html>

You may also be interested in the Clean Hands Doctrine and why the courts sometimes leave parties where they find them or in their original state prior to court. According to Cornell Law School "The clean hands doctrine is based on the maxim of equity that states that one "who comes into equity must come with clean hands." This doctrine requires the court to deny equitable relief to a party who has violated good faith with respect to the subject of the claim." Source: https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/clean_hands_doctrine An example of such applying would be where animal rights activists call farmers murderers and farmers call animal rights activists terrorists in response. So, the court would see the animal rights activists as not having clean hands because if they honestly believe the term murderer is accurate, even though at law definitively not recognized as even possible as murder as defined at law, it was not used correctly in the eyes of the law and would be seen as libelous if the farmers were accused of murdering people and then selling human meat marked as nonhuman animal meat at market. So, since the animal rights activists clearly state they call slaughtering animals for food "murder" and therefore are attempting to redefine the language for their own agenda based on their beliefs, it isn't technically libelous and for some remains a controversial issue. Some animal rights activists have been convicted of domestic terrorism and it may be unfair to allege all animal rights activists or enthusiasts are terrorists, but, not out of the conceivable ballpark particularly if responding to claims of murder made by the other side where everyone is free to be hyperbolic in a heated exchange.

That being said, many activist organizations, religious and/or spiritual organizations, behavior modification programs, and/or conversion programs use a coercive conversion model that unduly influences others to conform to beliefs and/or behaviors beyond minimum standards set at and/or required by law. Below is listed the model in brief followed by expanded philosophical discussion of the implications of the various components of the model relative to correlating numerical as shown:

1. Set a standard for personal belief and/or conduct beyond what the law requires of anyone.
2. Identify those who fail to meet the private and often very subjective standard set.

3. Attempt to and/or actually convert through emotional manipulation and peer pressure rather than honest reason, facts, and reasonable persuasion through effective debate in which all sides are considered.

4. Demonize all who fail to convert and shun or openly protest, boycott, and condemn the infidels.

Expanded Philosophical Discussion

1. Set a standard for personal belief and/or conduct beyond what the law requires of anyone.

PETA sets a dietary and personal use standard of veganism which is beyond what the law requires of anyone and has nowhere near the numbers to ever mandate everyone become vegan. 99.5% of the country disagrees with their minority perspective and it is a Republican Democracy/Representative Democracy.

HEAL and COPE set a minimum standard of honesty including intellectual honesty and that's it. But, our agenda is practicing and promoting Truth and Virtue (AKA God, Good Faith, etc.). And, those that fail to meet that standard where sufficient evidence supports they fail to meet that standard, may find themselves enrolled in the Conversion Program. The difference is we're looking at entities that engage in tortious and criminal misconduct and raising awareness about that for the sake of informing consumers while giving those enrolled ways off the watch-list or out of the Conversion Program that don't involve changing their practices at all, just being transparent and open about criticism and complaints similar to our Feedback page at <https://www.cope.church/feedback.htm>.

So, when you impose an unofficial private citizen mandate on other private citizens, you are in essence denying their equality to you even though the US government recognizes that equality at law. But, if you are sharing information that might otherwise not be available while still respecting the right of others to not conform to your beliefs or conduct, then likely not going to have issues at law unless a criminal you are exposing is so brazen they try to silence you using the courts even though you can reasonably substantiate and evidence they are a fraud and criminal enterprise.

2. Identify those who fail to meet the private and often very subjective standard set.

Pick a watch-list, any watch-list. How about the FBI watch-list? PETA is on it and here's the file or what's available of it online: <https://vault.fbi.gov/People%20for%20the%20Ethical%20Treatment%20of%20Animals%20%28PETA%29/> But, the FBI is official and government-sanctioned. In other words, permitted to keep a watch-list or not? Can the government officially investigate suspected terrorists or criminals who allegedly fire bomb businesses, trespass, destroy property, and/or kidnap livestock (if the animals have rights, then rights of dependents at law and their legal guardians are their owners so taking them would be kidnapping using animal rights logic) just to euthanize thousands at their headquarters while calling that

liberation? The farmers and other victims of fire bombing, trespass, destruction of property, and theft (1.8 million workers in animal agriculture in US alone) sincerely believe and hope so. But, the 1.62 million vegans in the US may believe otherwise. PETA has a watch-list too and exposes individual businesses like Smithfield Foods: <https://www.peta.org/features/smithfield/>

I agree that the first amendment's freedom of religion, free speech and free press clause(s) protect consumer advocacy, investigative reporting, self-expression, and peaceful assembly as does the government.

3. Attempt to and/or actually convert through emotional manipulation and peer pressure rather than honest reason, facts, and reasonable persuasion through effective debate in which all sides are considered.

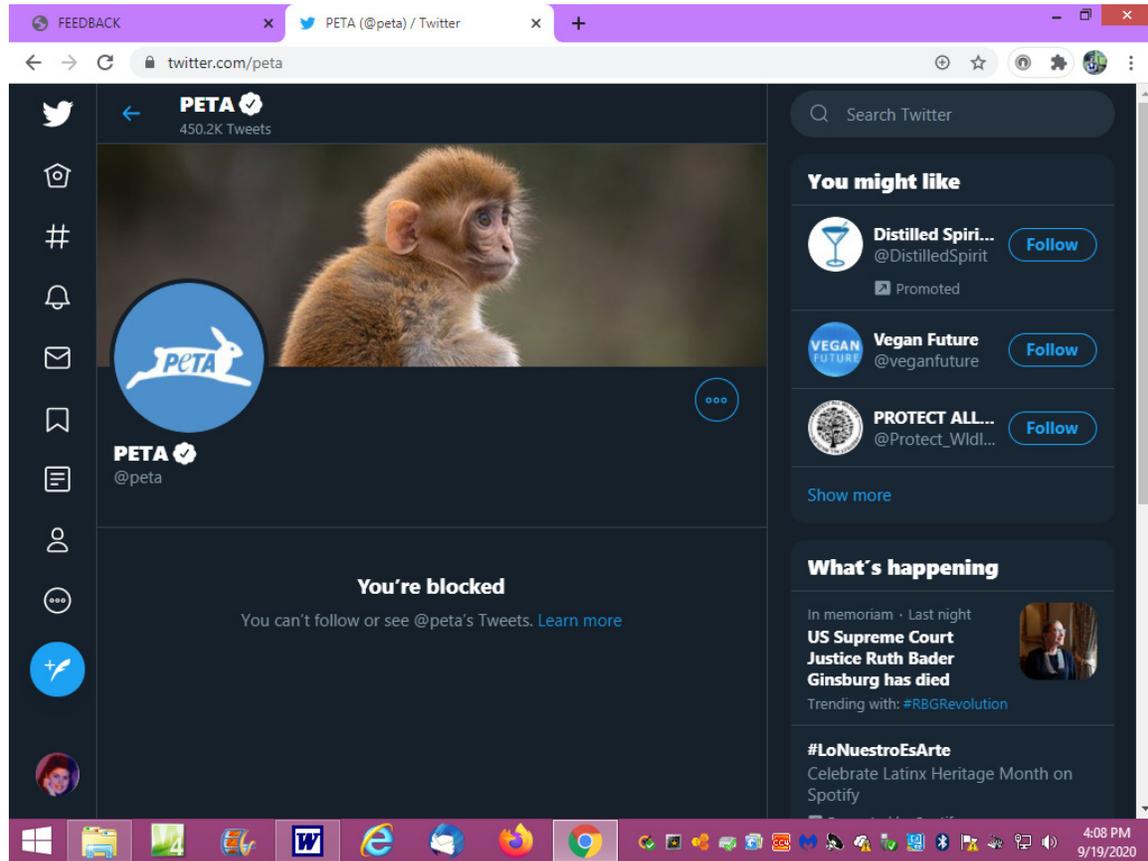
You can look at penalties as simply a quid pro quo (Oxford Languages via Google definition for "Quid Pro Quo" is "a favor or advantage granted or expected in return for something") for wrongdoing or as an attempt at conversion and ongoing threat until you conform. I personally prefer the quid pro quo penalty for wrongdoing rather than someone demonizing me and deciding I need to be psychologically destroyed and "re-programmed" to meet their subjective standard that goes beyond what the law requires regarding my beliefs or conduct.

I consider activism the minimal penalty exacted by sharing information with the court of public opinion in hopes of some semblance of justice where any other avenues were forfeited due to any reason including failure to report or file suit in a timely fashion. And, it is free speech so we have the right to hold and share minority perspectives with others and also should recognize others have the right to their time and to not hear about it just as you can't be forced to hear about their interests or beliefs.

A lot of conversion or behavior modification programs, including activist organizations, claim to have a higher standard, disapprove of new recruits until they meet the standard while others who conform encourage the transition to the new lifestyle/belief system using peer pressure (aka positive peer pressure), and ultimately approve when the recruit becomes a devotee and begins effectively recruiting too.

Emotional manipulation is employed through the disapproval and arguable rejection of new recruits until conforming to the group, organization, lifestyle, or belief system is achieved. Such group think or "hive mind" behavior ultimately destroys or seeks to destroy the foundations of individual liberty and responsibility which can only exist free from undue influence and coercive measures and suffers greatly when such is illegally and unreasonably applied without due process. And, in doing so, negates the very premise by which they base their own rights to engage in such conduct namely the first amendment of the US Constitution. Therefore, such denies equality of human beings in the eyes of those employing such tactics while claiming the moral high ground at times. And, liars self-negate as do hypocrites quite often.

While PETA has blocked me on Twitter, I still welcome Feedback and even link to their site at <https://www.cope.church/feedback.htm> .



And, I've not decided to show up at PETA's offices nor scream at them to stop what they are doing because they won't even reasonably discuss their position or honest questions about their positions with me. I historically donated a lot of time and money to PETA and it doesn't matter. They won't answer my questions directly or show me that level of respect even though I tried to get things clarified privately before publicly commenting.

So, for PETA, they feel I'm back at pre-recruitment level in terms of my beliefs and are treating me like that until I show I conform again. I won't be conforming again to that. And, I will always QUESTION MORE!

4. Demonize all who fail to convert and shun or openly protest, boycott, and condemn the infidels.

Arguably, I'm demonizing PETA now by listing them on the False Prophets Watch-List and putting them in my virtual conversion program. I'm not shunning them. I'm presenting my side factually and from my perspective as my opinion and/or representative of the opinions of all who've complained to me about PETA. And, PETA is most certainly hypocritical, elitist, and certainly unreasonable if not expressly deceiving others and just suffering delusions of grandeur resulting from surrounding

oneself solely with an echo chamber reinforcing one's own beliefs or position without regard to any other information or sentiment.

But, as a survivor of human trafficking and institutionalized abuse which is arguably comparable to how nonhuman animals are treated, I can tell you I'm glad I'm alive and free now and that no one successfully convinced me or others I should die because otherwise my life would be insufferable. So, for PETA to call for extinction, preventing animals from being born in the first place, and/or euthanasia for those subjected previously to inhumane living conditions is evil where the autonomy of the individual animal in choosing to live or die is not left to their own individual choice. I say if the animal is still eating or regains appetite, then they live. And, if practicalities mean PETA can't provide the care they demand everyone else provide that works with animals, hypocrites and liars.

That's just my perspective. I'm into reasonable and friendly persuasion and condemn criminals and tortfeasors while providing sanctuary for victims. I do not support coercive conversion and don't think hosting a consumer information site, with complaints and disciplinary histories while inviting those to be converted to host their own complaint/disciplinary records if they'd prefer I didn't, is coercive. I do understand that those who cling to a false image or idea of themselves and wish others to only believe in that version they wish to project while denying their own history or propensity for wrongdoing find what I do discomfoting, unsettling, and unpleasant. I find their propensity for torts and crimes discomfoting, unsettling, and unpleasant. So, I empathize. Perhaps when we all agree on how to make everyone as comfortable as possible and live as if we care about making that happen, all coercive methods will be history and nothing more.

There are opportunities to send messages, receive mystery bonus blessings, and more with or without donating available now on our "Pass the Basket" page at <https://www.cope.church/basket.htm> . Thank You.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32 KJV Willful blindness is an abomination.

COPE accepts Feedback, critical and complimentary. Learn more at <https://www.cope.church/feedback.htm> . For the sake of keeping myself and others humble, a sense of humor is welcome on all sides.

For More About COPE and the HEAL Mission, see:

<https://www.cope.church> and <http://www.heal-online.org>