

A Meditative Sermon on Communication

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for December 12th, 2021 (and beyond)

If familiar with my sermons, you likely already know that this sermon will begin with a few questions followed by an answer key. I am responsible for all of it and my credentials remain at <https://www.cope.church/credentials.pdf> with even more at <https://www.cope.church/goodshepherd.htm>.

1. If you've made a mistake, what initial response from a third-party would you prefer?
 - a. You must be perfect because your actions are a reflection on me and everyone must continue to believe I'm perfect and flawless. There shall be no further mistakes. Fix this.
 - b. Why and how did this mistake occur? What was the thinking behind it?
 - c. I find your choice here interesting. I'm curious if you'll self-correct. Go about your business. I shall study you.
 - d. I will fix it and you will remain silent until directed to speak.
2. If the mistake in #1 was that you committed homicide, which of the choices in #1 would you expect and from whom?
3. If someone else committed the homicide in #2, which of the answers in #1 would you honestly most likely say to them if aware of the homicide? Is the answer different depending on your relationship with the person responsible for the crime/mistake?
4. Which of the following mistakes would you forgive without correcting the one who made the mistake?
 - a. Homicide (including infanticide and abortion)
 - b. Rape
 - c. Human Trafficking
 - d. Individual Personal Misuse of Controlled Substances (Narcotics)

ANSWER KEY

Question 1: (Meaning of your answer is next to the corresponding letter of your answer below.)

- a. You believe there are perfect people and strive to be perfect while expecting to be held responsible for your own actions by your peers. There are no perfect people and so that belief alone suggests you are delusional and prefer like-minded company.
- b. You prefer justice and understand that involves answering for yourself where a mistake is too outrageous to go without mention by third-parties who may find your reasonable explanation sufficient to address the cause for concern if the mistake resulted in one.

- c. You consider yourself an anomaly that should be studied objectively by the scientific community.
- d. You prefer when other people take responsibility for you and may never achieve independence while finding as you age the only one left to do it is you and that boat sailed years ago. You are a charity case. No Responsibilities=Limited to No Rights and very few options as time goes by.

Question 2.: For me, I'd expect my maternal grandmother to answer with "a". She's the one I'd most associate with that answer. Part of the reason is she'd be stupid enough to say "fix this" when homicide is involved. There is no "fixing" that mistake. There is only never repeating it. With answer "b" I'd expect the justice system and/or just people to calmly hear all the facts and make a well-reasoned decision because I'm certain I'd have a recognized defense or legal privilege/right in the event I committed homicide. I honestly believe most people I fully respect would answer "b". People that creep me out would answer "c" and/or whose humor I enjoy if they said it as a joke. I think you'd have to have a huge ego and/or a mother who suffered malignant narcissism and co-occurring postpartum depression if you wanted to be studied by scientists for being an anomaly. 10-15% of women who give birth suffer postpartum depression. Source: <https://womensmentalhealth.org/posts/postpartum-depression-who-is-at-risk/> And, an estimated 1 to 3 in 20 or 5% to 15% of the human population is a malignant narcissist according to this article: <https://www.officer.com/investigations/article/10248968/the-malignant-narcissist>. Many malignant narcissists with postpartum depression see their babies as aliens or demons. Some even kill them as a result of the delusions. They don't have a nurturing maternal instinct. I believe there are a few members of my family and a couple of friends who would answer "d". I'm not naming them here and wouldn't expect you to name any friends or family who would say that and do that for you. And, I wouldn't accept the help, but would appreciate the desire to do so in a way I simply wouldn't handle it because I'd believe in my own innocence and believe they would too if given all the facts. Similar enough to how you'd answer or not? Meditate on your own answers, not mine.

3. I would answer "b" and sometimes "c". Yes, sometimes different and covered in the first sentence here is my opinion on that.

4. My answer is "a" and "d" depending on full context. If someone drugged someone else resulting in their death and was charged with homicide, I'd say none of the above. If someone overdosed on drugs they voluntarily ingested, I'd forgive right away assuming they likely have suffered or will suffer enough as a result of that. If they died as a result of the overdose they voluntarily took, I'd forgive it. So, details and context matters. The questions become "Why are you forgiving it?" and "Do you feel consensus, or codification of specific prohibited practices and/or actions as laws with penalties attached for violations thereof, reinforces your subjective commitment to correction or forgiveness? Both? Neither?" And, is the issue with chemically dependent people the fact that they are dependent on others because they are choosing dependency as a lifestyle? What if no one is required at law to take responsibility for them except themselves? The answer is charity, which is sometimes nothing more than a human

trafficking front looking for those who are chemically dependent because they are easier to control if rewarded with the chemicals on which they are dependent?

Love is universal and charity starts at home. Happy Holidays!

For those interested in starting #TaoFu Self-Defense Exercises, please see <https://www.cope.church/taofu.htm> and begin at any time.

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 <https://www.heal-online.org>