

A Sermon on Dependency

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for July 4th, 2021 (and beyond)

Love is not a commodity nor transactional, but is self-evident to those who know love. Dependency is transactional. Dependents may consider themselves property or be treated as property even where that's not the law of the land. Some people treat dependents as they treat nonhuman pets. Some are spoiled, some are abused, some are neglected, and all are financially dependent on the provider or providers. The dependency has socially detrimental side effects, but can be resolved with or without financial independence.

A provider can be a spouse, parent, government agency, or someone with your power of attorney when not yourself. If you ask someone competent at law how they would feel if someone besides him/herself was responsible for him/her in all financial and legal matters, if you fit the description of someone competent at law this can be asked of yourself too, what's the feeling? Do you feel relieved of duty? Do you feel indebted? Do you feel insecure? Do you feel vulnerable? Do you see your provider as all-powerful? You may feel some combination of those. But, the more you think about it, the more vulnerable you may feel and the more deimatic you may become in seeking to control the provider to establish your own sense of security by subjugating your provider (person responsible for you legally and financially). So, where you view the provider as all-powerful and yourself as powerless, you react to that with arguable delusions of grandeur resulting from any submission by the provider to your will which reinforces your delusions of grandeur where that's your view. The issue here is with your entering into any relationship without separating the idea of love from the idea of providence/dependency. Separating the idea of love from the idea of providence/dependency is something everyone should do and must do in my opinion.

For those who do not attempt to dominate the provider, you may be someone who just submits and lives in a cycle of depression resulting from feeling circumstantially subjugated. If your provider prevents you, through sabotage, abuse, or other forms of oppression, from pursuing independence or fails to recognize the value of your own contributions even if solely in-kind in terms of objective free market value, then you will want to see the emancipation guide at <https://www.heal-online.org/emancipationprep.pdf> and budget accordingly while recognizing when you've given up or sold out. If you entered the relationship expecting to be a dependent until the provider or you dies, that's your problem.

If you entered the relationship willing to contribute and be independent, then know the value of your contributions. There are many ways to calculate it and I've provided some in other sermons. [See: <https://www.cope.church/equalitysermon.pdf> and <https://www.cope.church/fairsharesermon.pdf>] But, say whatever Platonic work, with objective free market value, that you do that your provider would need to do for him/herself if you weren't doing it, is how you contribute. Your provider will likely understand the value of work provided once explained and if your cost of living is at or below the value of the work you do for the provider, then you have mutual consideration

and recognition evidenced often as mutual respect for each other's equality in the relationship.

If you see all relationships as a power struggle where you need to dominate everyone else, that promotes inequality. It is like you want to subjugate everyone else because you believe the world is nothing but slaves and slaveholders of one sort or another. And, if that idea ever manifests as the norm again, I'll be part of the resistance as I am now.

If you want equality but still feel like you want to be spoiled where no one expects you to be anything but cute so you get everything you want with a smile or pout, you don't want equality and will be on the losing end of that delusion likely with roots in one or both of your parents being indulgent while saying things like "who can resist that smile?" or "here darling, let's see that frown turn upside down". If your parents still indulge you though, please don't expect anyone else to be as accommodating. In such a situation, recognizing your parents as your equals may result in great feelings of inferiority where it would be seemingly impossible for you to contribute your fair share to the household economy based on expenditures that benefit you versus what you objectively contribute of Platonic free market value.

If you are committed to equality, then properly value your own independence as well as your contributions to your relationships and/or society. The more you recognize the objective free market value of your own contributions weighed against expenditures on your behalf, the sooner the scales will balance out as a result of your conscientious awareness that providence can be measured in financial compensation, goods and services, and commitment to equality.

If you still see being financially dependent as the equivalent of being someone else's property, you've likely been brainwashed or unduly influenced. And, if you recognize the objective free market value of your own contributions, then you aren't dependent at all and clearly have marketable skills so are free to leave because all contracts are at will as are most living situations with very few exceptions.

Happy Independence Day! Are you an equal in your household or not? If not, are you ready to commit to equality and mutual respect? If so, thanks for choosing to lead by example. Go Dutch and count Platonic in-kind only, unless being totally honest that it is dependency and not love where sex work is calculated in the in-kind total for objective free market valuation. Seriously, this will fix a lot of what's still wrong regardless of gender, sexual orientation, ancestry, or socio-economic position.

Dependency results in many feeling unloved, used, and resentful. And, recognizing the objective free market value of currency, goods, and services contributed or provided to you by all weighed against the objective free market value of your own providence/contributions will reveal whether or not you do more than your fair share, less than your fair share, or are totally #TaoFu when it comes to equality. Adjust accordingly until equality is fully realized and manifested.

Again, Happy Independence Day! Independence Day is an official COPE Holiday too. Learn more at <https://www.cope.church/holidays.pdf>.

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>