

A Sermon on the Teen Liberty Movement in Terms of Grief

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for February 28th, 2021 (and beyond)

This sermon explores the thinking behind the Teen Liberty Movement as seen through the lens of the five stages of grief. Traumatic grief is a form of grief that also involves the five stages of grief. (Source: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/expressive-trauma-integration/201909/grief-vs-traumatic-grief>) Most victims and survivors of crime, including fraud and child abuse, live with traumatic grief. This can be compounded by additional traumatic experiences including the deaths of loved ones. Critical thinking is really important in managing trauma and grief or even getting to the point of intellectual acceptance even if emotionally some still struggle with processing and avoid dealing with the emotions honestly which requires so much effort to avoid the pain that critical thinking shuts down or that appears to be an issue with some in the survivor community. And, I'm here to help those ready and willing to be helped with the ability (even if a developing one) to listen, learn, and address problems with honest reason and critical thinking. For those who are unable, you may find me frustrating because you don't understand or can't understand reasonable discourse as a result of your ongoing emotional issues. And, in such cases, willful blindness plays a role in your disability if unwilling to learn or listen to reason.

The five stages of grief and how they may apply or reveal the thinking behind the Teen Liberty Movement are provided below:

Denial: Phrases that apply to this stage of grief from the Teen Liberty Movement and more include: "I wish it never happened. It should have never happened. I want to forget it ever happened. Let's pretend it didn't happen." (I never pretend it never happened and I don't forget either.) Many survivors experience the stages of grief collectively and not necessarily consecutively.

Anger: "They should never have done it. They should never have existed. I want them to cease to exist. I want the pain to cease to exist. If the source of the pain ceased to exist so would my anger. I'm done pretending it didn't happen and ready to take action."

Bargaining: "It's within the statutes of limitation for me to pursue justice and hold those who caused the grief accountable at law. I can file consumer complaints, complaints with professional licensing boards, press charges and/or sue. Oh, it isn't within the statutes of limitation and I stayed in denial too long to recover damages or get justice? Well, the entire system needs to be overhauled so that delays caused by denial don't prevent holding those who caused grief accountable. I can still do something. I will talk to Congress because they can at least pretend to do something like pass legislation that won't make a difference because the same presumption of innocence, evidentiary standards, and requirements for properly reporting to the correct enforcement body within the statutes of limitation will still apply and since I was a victim of torts and crimes in denial for too long, I didn't get justice, but, people like me still deserve justice and still wish to see those who caused us grief held accountable. The system should be patient with people while they manage grief and trauma rather than demanding, for the sake of

having enough evidence and/or a chance at apprehending the criminals as a result of immediacy so they don't continue to harm others for a long period of time, we meet their criteria and requirements for due process which includes the right to a speedy trial (6th Amendment of the US Constitution guarantees all US citizens the right to a speedy trial). That's crap and if you did something wrong, you should pay for it and everyone should accommodate the victims who were aggrieved and put their needs first above all reason and civility.” Welcome to COPE.

Depression: Why? If traumatized and/or grieving actual dead loved ones, that will last and come and go if you are a soulful person like myself. Or, you may empathize with others going through it and sometimes be reminded of your own grief or loss, which may result in prolonged depression. I prefer to be depressed alone. I'm depressed because many activists are just looking for a social club or sense of community rather than to actually meaningfully volunteer to help make the world a better place. I've volunteered at soup kitchens, at local homeless shelters, at animal sanctuaries (actually helping the animals directly), and much more. So, when I volunteer or offer to volunteer, I'm looking to be productive and helpful not looking for a sense of community or social club. And, that's how I think of volunteering when I use the word. But, I'm always open to making new friends and rarely excommunicate. However, the work I do at COPE is intended to help create and support a vibrant community of individual artists and independent advocates and does. The work I do at the HEAL Mission though is intended to warn consumers away from fraudulent and abusive entities and help victims/survivors process and/or act quick for the sake of due process. But, I consider it work. And, it isn't unusual to make friends at work, but, making friends isn't the purpose of the HEAL Mission from my perspective, just a bonus blessing when it happens. It is perfectly normal to be sad when you have suffered a loss or harm and to occasionally be reminded of the loss or harm which may result in feeling sad. Being depressed actually means you have accepted reality intellectually or reasonably, just not emotionally in some ways. Depressed people see the world more realistically. (Source: <https://www.vice.com/en/article/8x9j3k/depressed-people-see-the-world-more-realistically>) Quoting from that linked source article: “Feeling blue? Strangely, it might mean that you're actually better at judging your performance—and reality in general—than when you're not...It's called "depressive realism," and it seems to suggest that in our normal state, we tend to operate under happy delusions that lift away when we're depressed. The idea blows apart the theory that depressed people have too negative an outlook on the world: They may actually just be seeing it how it is.”

Acceptance: #TaoFu and I still do what I do and believe in what I do too. I know reporting works. I accept the US Government and the limitations on government authority. I really love due process and feel like killing anyone who threatens it. So, that tells me I love the US Constitution and would kill to protect it. Unfortunately due to knee injuries I was not able to join the military when I turned 18. I did speak with a recruiter. So, as much as I hate fraud and abuse, I love the US Constitution more. And, I hope you can accept that.

Source of 5 stages: <https://www.healthline.com/health/stages-of-grief>

What concerns me most is the fact that people who didn't get a high quality education of any sort and are extremely ignorant with no understanding of the US Constitution or limitations on government authority, ignore all that because they were raised in cult-like environments and just repeat the mantra "take me to your leader" while assuming that's congress because of all the talk about congressional leadership on television. And, they assume telling whom they see as leaders the issue will get the leaders to do something who certainly have authority over the people who caused them harm. This is simply not the case. In the US, we are all equal and all subject to the law, not each other or people in government per se. So, it is great if you at least understand the US Constitution and Bill of Rights before suggesting stupid changes to the law even if some legislators will introduce it because they are emotionally moved by the harms alleged and/or evidenced.

Here's why legislation to regulate any industry, won't prevent harm (And, if you have the ability to think and are aware of your surroundings or the daily news at all, then, you know that crimes and torts happen all the time and they have to be properly reported or a suit filed within the statutes of limitation with sufficient evidence for conviction or judgment in the plaintiff's favor. So where you've committed any (i.e. jaywalking) and got away with it, you know that happens and is a result of someone not having evidence on who did it or not reporting it properly where you are the perpetrator. And, that's how you know you can't prevent it and that only the ones who commit or think to commit crimes and torts can prevent them, otherwise there are REMEDIES AT LAW with proper procedures you need to follow to get justice, okay?):

1. Regulations establish standards that if violated need to be reported to the proper enforcement body with sufficient evidence and within the statutes of limitation. Raping, trafficking, abusing, and neglecting children are all crimes and torts right now. So, where that's occurring, that needs to be reported and when it is done properly, programs like Restoration Youth Academy, Midwest Academy, and more get closed down. When that's not done for any reason, the government doesn't have cause to investigate and can't without a warrant unless the licensees agree to be searched without one. It's the same as if you get pulled over while driving and the officer asks to search your car. If you say "no", that's your right and they have to get a warrant. If you say "yes", you've waived your due process right to comply in the event the officer feels they have probable cause. So, where you want to do away with that due process requirement in any way I take issue with that. The good news is if you are a victim of institutionalized abuse, you can press charges or sue right now if you pursue it properly with respect for due process.
2. Bans on puppy mills don't result in banning currently existing puppy mills and only apply the new regulatory standards to those that are established after the new regulations are in place. This is because of Ex Post Facto in the US Constitution, which prevents new civil laws from applying to those businesses established prior to the new regulations being enacted. Criminal laws are different and apply to everyone regardless of what came before. But, crimes have to be reported to law enforcement in the jurisdiction where the crimes occurred within the statutes of

limitation. (For more on the puppy mill issue, see page 85 at <https://www.heal-online.org/activism101.pdf>)

3. The 4th and 5th Amendments of the US Constitution protect individual and corporate citizens from search, seizure, and deprivation of liberty or property without a court order and due process. And, the Congressional Oath of Office reads: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God."
4. The 6th Amendment of the US Constitution provides the right to all accused of wrongdoing to a speedy trial. This is why we have statutes of limitation in the first place.

So, now those who are somewhere between denial and anger hopefully understand the laws and rules that govern us all in the USA, including the US Constitution and Bill of Rights. Victims and survivors of fraud and abuse have and have had remedies available at law for the violation of their rights since the violations occurred. The statutes of limitation began running in most cases when the victims and survivors turned 18. For rape of a minor under 16 years old and murder, there is no statute of limitations in most jurisdictions in the USA right now.

For those who wish to warn the public in hopes that those considering doing business with a fraudulent and abusive entity that harmed them even after the statutes of limitation have expired or instead of pursuing justice through the courts, can assist with public information campaigns that will hopefully educate consumers and help them avoid being defrauded and abused. And, the HEAL Mission does that.

And, if everyone wants to waste their time with Congress while giving the public the impression that programs that are reportedly fraudulent and abusive now will be regulated in a manner that won't require proper reporting or will prevent harm once that legislation passes (which is false because of Ex Post Facto), are de facto delusional, willfully blind, and/or ignorant. Beyond that, it will hurt the children or anyone currently or potentially to be enrolled because people will believe the bullshit that the regulations prevent harm and trust if something is still open that it is above board when it simply is not and the issue is people aren't reporting it properly within the statutes of limitation in many cases.

If you feel depressed as a result of this sermon, I'm sorry. That was not my intention. My intention is to help you help yourself and others by recognizing what can be done, your actual role in law enforcement/regulation which is proper reporting to the correct enforcement bodies within the statutes of limitation, your right to sue for harms done to you, and the fact that just because your rights were violated doesn't mean we should amend the US Constitution so everyone loses our rights because you can't be bothered to report it properly within the statutes of limitation even in the age of the internet. Also,

the last proposed amendment to the US Constitution is the Equal Rights Amendment. The Equal Rights Amendment (recognizing women as fully equal to men at law) was introduced and passed by the US House and Senate in 1972. We are still waiting on ratification by all 50 states. 5 states that previously ratified it are now seeking to rescind their ratification of it. Other states have still not ratified it at all. (Source: <https://www.equalrightsamendment.org/era-ratification-map>) And, the Equal Rights Amendment sought to expand recognition of the rights of women as equals, not strip rights currently guaranteed by the US Constitution. But, if you think you can introduce unconstitutional laws without anyone effectively hiring a team of lawyers to pursue it to the Supreme Court of the United States to rule it void because it is unconstitutional or just think it might be fun for members of congress (state or federal) to discuss unconstitutional laws in committee while watching the suggested bills die and never get passed, that's your right to waste your time and theirs. But, count me out. I'm here to help you understand the government so you can work with it to get justice and not destroy it in an effort to violate the rights of those that violated your rights. Two wrongs don't make a right. (Unless talking math and multiplying two negative numbers. That's because the two negatives cancel each other out. But, that's only in multiplication. If you add two negative numbers, you still have a negative number.) And, the failures around those who were responsible for educating you and preparing you for emancipated independent living are obvious to everyone including members of Congress who are too polite and have to welcome and listen to everyone as part of their job duties.

If you insist on lobbying, please focus on criminalizing wrongful institutionalization (see NJ law: Emotional Abuse Citation: "Ann. Stat. § 9:6-8.21 Abused child or abused or neglected child means a child under age 18 years who is in an institution, and: Has been placed there inappropriately for a continued period of time with the knowledge that the placement has resulted or may continue to result in harm to the child's mental or physical well-being Who has been willfully isolated from ordinary social contact under circumstances that indicate emotional or social deprivation" and banning any segregated congregate care provider from accepting any involuntary placement without a court order.

To be part of the solution, focus on consumer advocacy like at the HEAL Mission and making sure victims and survivors know how and where to report violations of the law within the statutes of limitation. Does it work? See the dead program graveyard at www.beyondbusiness.net/youarenext.htm that lists all the programs featured on our watch-list that we've helped close down by cooperating with the justice system.

There are other ways to stop institutionalized abuse. One way is to keep people out of institutions in the first place. And, many foster kids are placed in inappropriate settings because there are no family homes willing to provide foster care to wards of the state (which represents "We The People"). So, in hopes of helping all survivors resolve some, if not all, concerns surrounding institutionalization and institutionalized abuse, I provide the following meditative questions as my closing for this sermon:

Are you currently a foster parent with foster children?

Will you become a foster parent so foster kids have a family home rather than being placed in inappropriate settings like segregated congregate care (sometimes run by cults)?

Do you now understand how some end up in segregated congregate care through no fault of their own?

Do you believe there should be any institutional penalty for those who commit violent crimes? If not, would you choose the death penalty as an alternative to incarceration?

Would you report a loved one that committed a felony to law enforcement knowing they'd go to prison?

Would you report your employer for any violation of the law if you knew you would be fired for doing so or otherwise lose your job?

If you were a minor (under 18 years of age and not emancipated) and convicted of a felony, if given a choice would you choose to be tried as an adult and go to prison or tried as a child with options of juvenile detention/treatment/diversion programs?

If a roommate of yours regularly invited strangers into your home that seemed to be stealing from you and the property you lost was valued greater than the contributions to the household by your roommate, would you want to kick your roommate out even if you started out as friends? If they were also committing other crimes and you had sufficient evidence, would you report them to the police, move out, or kick them out? Would you write about it online to warn others? Would the others heed the warnings?

If a roommate of yours was keeping stolen property and/or controlled substances in your shared home, that if discovered by law enforcement may result in your being evicted and/or arrested even if you knew nothing about it and it was all your roommate, what would you wish you'd known before law enforcement and how would you handle it?

Even if you are not a foster parent, do you let family and friends know that if they need help with their dependents/children you sincerely are available to provide emergency shelter or an alternative to institutionalization? Are you someone your friends and family would designate or have designated to be a Godparent in the event they are seriously disabled, incapacitated or die? Would you expressly volunteer for that responsibility so they know you are an option in the event of a worst-case scenario?

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>