

A Sermon on Home Economic Fairness

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for April 16th, 2023 (and beyond)

This sermon builds upon the June 7th, 2020 sermon titled “A Sermon on Equality” archived here: <https://www.cope.church/equalitysermon.pdf> and the April 11th, 2021 sermon titled “A Sermon on Doing Your Fair Share” archived here: <https://www.cope.church/fairsharesermon.pdf>. To aid in preparing everyone for equality and independence who may be an economic dependent (unemancipated, non-emancipated or purely situational without legal recognition of dependence (i.e. homemaker)), I’m providing additional ways to value all in-kind and financial domestic contributions below. I believe record-keeping will keep everyone as honest and humble as resulting evidence suggests. In situations where a dependent raises the argument “I didn’t ask to be here”, the proper response is to list the alternatives and choose wisely. An alternative to that is to take the position that since when they were sperm they beat all the others to the egg, they won the race and that was their choice. Lots of sperm try to get to it first, millions. It seems someone was pretty motivated to get to the egg first or else they wouldn’t be here. The thing is as much as beating out millions in a once in a lifetime competition for a chance to evolve seems awe-inspiring and the origin story of a true champion, it applies to all living beings including all human beings. We’re all the champions of the Great Egg Race. And, even when a beauty queen is crowned after an extensive competition showcasing many talents, that’s just the beginning of a year-long contract and when the prizes are spent the queen’s option is to look for work or compete in another pageant. Competing in pageants can be work too and may require contracts or sponsorships from local businesses. One of my friends in high school was a pageant girl and I attended one of her pageants. She came in second and also won Miss Congeniality for that competition. She also worked at a local restaurant and paid her own entry fees. I believe second prize on that one was a \$2500 scholarship. The prize was greater than the entry fee, but was it greater than all the costs to her in time and supplies? I still don’t know. Entry fees for pageants appear to run from \$35 to \$1500 with an additional \$95 application fee for some. Regardless, she’s still a champion as are we all. But, how do we value each other?

There are different ways to value goods and services. One could value a laptop computer at its retail cost in money or the number of hours that went into making it. However, the hours that went into making something may be subject to argument. In the case of a laptop computer, 6-7 hours to assemble components that took even longer to build prior to assembly. Source: <https://techguided.com/how-long-does-it-take-to-build-a-pc/#:~:text=Building%20a%20PC%20might%20take,for%20component%20deliveries%2C%20of%20course.> It took scientists 6 years to invent one battery: <https://www.npr.org/2022/08/03/1114964240/new-battery-technology-china-vanadium> But, that particular battery holds a charge for 30 years. Laptop batteries reportedly last up to 10 hours on average before needing to be charged. And, if one were to value the laptop solely on the assembly cost in hours (7 hours at WA State Minimum Wage=\$110.18) and parts needed (\$800--Source: <https://pigtou.com/how-much-does-it-cost-to-build-laptop/>), the value would be \$910.18 in money or equivalent in-kind value provided goods or services. And, this is why accepting the free market value of goods or

services and meeting that value whether financially or in kind with consideration for minimum wage laws is imperative to leading by example when it comes to home economics. For the purposes of the below chart, average cost in US of each good or service is the basis of the monetary value ascribed to it. The past should never be so good that the future looks bleak in comparison. Are you dependent or free?

| GIFT/NECESSITIES PROVIDED | LUXURY PROVIDED | FREE MARKET VALUE IN US DOLLARS | FREE MARKET VALUE IN LABOR HOURS |
|------------------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| Twin Bed | N/A | \$600 for bed and mattress (doesn't include sheets, covers, nor pillows) | Federal Rate: 82.75 hours (a little over 2 weeks full-time) WA State Rate: 38.12 hours (1 full-time work week) |
| Food/Toiletries Per Month | N/A | \$150 for 1 person | Federal Rate: 20.68 hours WA State Rate: 9.52 hours |
| N/A | Smartphone + plan | \$363 for device/goods with \$113 per month for service. | Device Federal Rate: 50 hours Device WA State Rate: 23 hours Service Federal Rate: 15.58 hours State Rate: 7.17 hours |
| N/A | Car | \$20-35,000 (1-5 year old used/previously owned car, not including interest, insurance, nor gas) | Federal Rate on \$20,000: 2,758.62 Hours or 344.82 work days if 8 hours per day. WA State Rate: 1,270.64 Hours or 158.83 days if 8 hours labor per day. |
| Gardening/Yard Work Per Hour | N/A | \$20-\$88/hour depending on skill level required. | N/A |
| Education/Studying | N/A | 1000 in-class hours and an average of 180 hours studying/homework. | The Federal Government does offer paid apprenticeships for those who learn and earn at the same time. Source* (see |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| | | | below chart) The minimum wage on that would be \$7.25/hour and total \$8,555 per year on average. However, K-12 attendance is often mandatory and in WA State mandated until the student's 18th birthday to avoid penalties at law that can apply to both legal guardians/parents and students. But, the state pays \$18,175 per student ** (see source below) so the in-kind study/academics of the student offset by that arguably owes the state \$9,620 or the equivalent in hours even when average total value of said hours studying is applied. |
| Child Care/Babysitting Per Hour | N/A | \$20/hour (average) | N/A |
| Housework (vacuuming, dusting, etc) | N/A | \$25-\$90/hour (average of \$40 nationwide) | N/A |
| Preparing Food/Chef | N/A | \$30-\$200/hour (average of \$30-\$40 per hour) | N/A |
| N/A | European Vacation/Trip (With a class, group, or other) | \$3000/person on average including airfare (Paris, France for 1 week was the basis) | Federal Rate: 413.79 hours WA State Rate: 190.59 hours |

* https://www.apprenticeship.gov/sites/default/files/Career_Seeker_Fact_Sheet.pdf

** https://www.bigcountrynewsconnection.com/local/washington-state-spending-18-175-per-student-this-school-year/article_cac82d5e-a6d8-11ec-840a-9bccb5e4710a.html#:~:text=Average%20per%2Dstudent%20funding%20in,revenue%20and%20expenditure%20data%20website.

I believe using a similar or the same table as shown above to explain everyone's contributions to home economics and their free market value as well as to track gifts, earnings, and in-kind contributions will help everyone find a path to home economic fairness and mutual respect.

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, see:

<https://www.cope.church>