

A Sermon on Individuality in Relation to Organizational Bodies

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for December 4th, 2022 (and beyond)

Churches, for profit corporations, governments, and secular nonprofit organizations are all examples of organizational bodies. The word "Corporation" is defined by Oxford Languages via Google as "a company or group of people authorized to act as a single entity (legally a person) and recognized as such in law." "Corporation" and "Corporeal" have the same Latin root in Corpus, which means physical body. So, some organizational bodies organize via caste system/hierarchically and others democratically with some mix and match potential between the two. When there is a hierarchy, decisions are top-down and all consider the head or highest-ranking position the authority overall over all other body parts in relation to the organization. But, in a free country, one can choose to do business and/or associate with cooperatives (definition via Oxford Languages via Google: a farm, business, or other organization, which is owned and run jointly by its members, who share the profits or benefits.), hierarchies, both, or neither.

If any organization, whether hierarchical or cooperative, violates the law and infringes on your individual rights, you can file complaints and sue. If an employee and dismissed for reporting any violations witnessed, the government sees unemployment benefits as the safeguard for you for doing the right thing where not a direct victim of any violations witnessed and not otherwise eligible for damages in tort. No organization should require any individual compromise his/her own dignity and integrity to join it in anyway. And, where rights are obviously being violated or unconscionable and/or illegal terms are found in any contracts (including employment), those are voidable at law and likely actionable in themselves. Some illegal or unconscionable contract terms could be considered prima facie harassment such as any that discriminate in violation of the Equal Employment Opportunity laws. Such discrimination may be based on gender, faith, sexual orientation, heredity, and/or disability where said does not impact ability to do the job in employment cases of the sort.

Often individuals censor themselves out of fear that in doing the right thing, other employers won't hire them because they are tattletales. But, that's based on an assumption that the majority of hierarchical organizations engage in malfeasance/wrongdoing of a legally actionable sort. Some malignant narcissists see all parts of their organization as extensions of themselves they can treat however they want without risk because of their confidentiality/nondisclosure agreements in any contracts. And, the line between "clear and reasonable dress code", "wear a uniform" and "wear low cut tops and high cut bottoms to sell shoes at a discount shoe store" in terms of what would be considered legally actionable will be determined by a court if and when suit is brought with full context considered. "The city government in Everett, Washington, violated bikini baristas' 14th amendment rights through its ordinances attempting to regulate the clothing baristas are permitted to wear while working, according to an order from a US District Judge in western Washington, which was obtained by CNN." Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2022/10/31/us/bikini-baristas-equal-protection-clause> Whether this means all organizational "dress code" policies are in or out, is yet to be determined. The courts often determine things on the basis of the reasonable person standard. As Judge

Judy says at times “You’re not the boss, applesauce.” The government does not require any individual to compromise their principles for any reason and encourages everyone to report crimes, torts, and regulatory violations to the proper authorities. The government offers unemployment insurance benefits to those who lose their jobs for any reason, including doing the right thing. While practical considerations may make it seem at times that you have no choice and there is a conspiracy to cover up wrongdoing, that’s only true where you cover it up and therefore are part of the conspiracy until you notify the proper authorities. If you feel the benefits of being part of any corporate or organizational body outweigh the risks to you and/or others, that’s your choice and that’s how the government sees it. That’s freedom. Financial freedom is a whole other story and the government makes it possible, though highly improbable, through the games like Powerball.

If you owned a hierarchical company that you started with your own money and built from the ground up after working for years for others, what would your policies be in regards to your employees and as an employee or former employee, if in their shoes would you find the policies disrespectful of or in violation of your rights or any laws? Think like a boss before any big decisions whether you are one or not at the time. Good bosses consider liability issues related to their policies and practices.

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>