

## A Sermon on Practicing Religion

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for December 20th, 2020 (and beyond)

Matthew 5:7 (KJV): "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy."

Matthew 5:7 (Wycliffe): "Blessid ben merciful men, for thei schulen gete merci."  
[Translated from Middle English to Modern English: "Blessed be merciful men, for they shall get mercy.]

Galatians 6:7 (KJV): "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

Galatians 6:7-8 (Wycliffe): "Nyle ye erre, God is not scorned; 8 for tho thingis that a man sowith, tho thingis he schal reape. For he that sowith in his fleisch, of the fleisch he schal reape corrupcioun; but he that sowith in the spirit, of the spirit he schal reape euerelastyng lif." [Translated from Middle English to Modern English: "With a born champion (birthright claims of superiority) you err, but, God is not scorned by it ("scorn" is defined by Oxford Languages via Google as "the feeling or belief that someone or something is worthless or despicable; contempt.") for a man reaps what he sows. He that sows in beastly vice will reap corruption; but he that sows in the spirit (of Truth and Virtue) shall reap everlasting life."]

With the above two passages it should be clear. If you wish people to be honest and virtuous with you then be that with other people or else you are a hypocrite. Additional sources on this thought include Luke 6:31 and Matthew 7:1-5.

Matthew 7:1-5 (KJV): "Judge not, that ye be not judged. 2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. 3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? 4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? 5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye."

The basics of practicing religion and the essence of Christianity as a practice is to consider all facts objectively in full context and reasonably understand human beings are fallible and not omniscient even with Google access. If you agree there should be an organized system for addressing wrongs through remedies at law (particularly when the law itself can also be remedied through proper procedures built in because the USA is that awesome, specifically the US Constitution) and that raping, trafficking, and murdering anyone, especially children, should be a capital offense (or have a serious penalty attached for those convicted beyond a reasonable doubt), then work with the government rather than against it. If you believe devolution into small cults around varying special interests where everyone commits war crimes against each other, lynchings, and might makes right in terms of responsibility and resource sharing and distribution with no reasonable justice system, just Mortal Kombat (and/or Street Fighter)

and Highlander combo or that's how those not into it looking to survive it see it, you will remain the minority in one way or another. Do you know why? Because, you can regress some people and scare them into perpetual infancy where they believe their needs only get met if they throw a tantrum because they don't know how to use words to communicate effectively nor how to take responsibility for themselves which is why they want someone else to do it where their natural families have disappeared or given up. But, they want to choose without any responsibility and retain the right to criticize what's given in charity. The Libertarian solution is, if you can get your needs or desires met going about it that way, go for it, but, I've never seen it work for an extended period. Time-outs usually start at least mid-way through the 2nd year of life. Do you know what an adult time-out is? It's jail or prison or house arrest. Sometimes it's the same for minorities as well. In sports like Hockey, it is the penalty box. Please do a search for "NHL and penalty box meltdowns" on Google or Youtube.

I truly hope this sermon helps everyone get through traditional (Pagan) Christmas. Practicing religion takes commitment, study, and self-examination to avoid hypocrisy for the sake of fairness, equality, and justice. If you believe Truth and Virtue matter, act like it and show it through good works. Any salesperson can say "I've got the best and most heavenly deal for you." while kissing your ass, soothsaying, and waiting for the windfall when you buy what they are selling. But, a true theologian, like myself, will share ways to develop your #TaoFu sensibilities to help you manage your temptation to vice, lead by example, teach tolerance by celebrating imperfection without glorifying nor condemning it, and welcoming reciprocity and support to continue providing services to all, not just those who can afford to contribute.

If you are honest and virtuous then usually that's how you will be treated unless you took a wrong turn at Albuquerque and that does happen. We have the internet now and can easily search any two terms including the ""name of a business" and the word "lawsuit" or "complaint"" to see if there is cause for concern or compunction. But, if you are into instant gratification and fall for bullshit then later get outraged when you learn the truth where others recognized or warned and you ignored it for any reason, the outrage doesn't deserve a press conference because the public is aware crimes and torts are real and that there are remedies available at law. So, just exposing one's own failures in due diligence from some perspectives and/or ignorance regarding how to properly report crimes or pursue civil actions. If someone walked up to you and told you they were a victim of multiple torts and crimes needing help against their assailants/tortfeasors but didn't want to go to court nor report it immediately due to trauma, how would you feel if after you suggest they do that with your support they claimed you are unsupportive? For me, I wonder what the hell they actually want and why they can't construct a sentence or paragraph honestly describing it while patiently seeing if I can help anyway because I'm that generous. Check my record and history, I'm a survivor of multiple torts and crimes. I'm not seeking to break hearts and fill my coffers telling my story. What I do is assist other victims of torts and crimes, most of whom can handle the truth and appreciate the help. But, some seek to exploit the good-natured assuming it is co-dependence, here it is not. If you don't see the work I do as having any value, keep your money and know you are either ignorant or a liar.

The best gift you can give anyone this Christmas is to not take them for granted. Those of us who are reliable, committed, and dedicated do reset priorities when needed for the sake of fairness, justice, and equality in consideration of ourselves too, because #HonestLivesMatter. God bless you and Merry Christmas!

#### ALTERNATE: A Sermon on Practicing Religion

This may be the most controversial and uncomfortable sermon I'll ever deliver. I am and will always be a victim's advocate as well as a survivor of multiple torts and crimes including having been raped when I was 6 years old. For more on that and greater context for this alternate sermon, see <https://www.cope.church/taofu.htm> (specifically exercise 1 with commentary). So, my question is "Is it hypocritical to have mixed feelings about Woody Allen, Roman Polanski, and Kevin Spacey?" I haven't watched any Woody Allen films for a while, but, still own copies of "Annie Hall", "Sleeper", and "Company Man" (co-starring Denis Leary). I can't bring myself to throw them out nor watch them. It's like totally #TaoFu because I feel I've benefited from their contributions to the art world greatly and that's true. And, I've not met the alleged victims personally. Mia Farrow may be the culprit we know she had dealings with Allen and Polanski. I don't know. What I do know is that a false rumor was spread about Charlie Sheen that he allegedly raped Corey Haim on the set of "Lucas" and that rumor was allegedly spread by Corey Feldman to cover up Feldman's role in Dominick Brascia's rape of Corey Haim allegedly in exchange for drugs for Feldman. So, knowing what I do know, I feel like my feelings are less mixed where I know beyond a reasonable doubt that a crime occurred and who did what with recognition of opportunism and other variables such as covering up one's own crimes. I feel I know beyond a reasonable doubt that Charlie Sheen is totally innocent in regards to any rape of Corey Haim though he's been publicly accused and the rumor is still floating online. I have no issue enjoying Charlie Sheen's work at this time nor publicly supporting him and his new releases.

I honestly think whenever Corey Feldman doesn't get offered or chosen for a role that he spreads vicious rumors that are true (because he's the guilty party so knows the core story is true or could happen in Hollywood) but not true in regards to those named as guilty. He rearranges the characters or applies it to a whole other party that he's jealous of because they have talent and "juice" still and he does not. So, he throws Sheen under the bus to cover up his own crimes and try to get bumped up for any roles Sheen was being considered for at any given moment.

It is this type of opportunism and Machiavellian manipulation we see with Corey Feldman that disgusts me and actually hurts survivors and victims like Corey Haim, myself, and Charlie Sheen. The falsely accused are victims too and that's why if alleged victims properly report it and are lying they can go to jail for that. It's called filing a false police report. For every criminal allegation that can also be pursued in tort, I believe the crime should be reported even if the evidence is only a preponderance and not beyond an objective reasonable doubt based on material facts. And, if the prosecutor deems there is insufficient evidence to persuade a jury of criminal guilt, then pursue it in civil court because if you aren't arrested for filing a false report that's the evidence the report was

true enough to avoid charges for filing a false complaint. The police believe victims too, but, also know that without physical evidence even the average public defender can get someone a plea deal or charges dropped as a result of insufficient evidence. I support justice for Haim and Sheen and all other victims of torts and crimes (including victims of rape and false allegations).

So, with Woody Allen my thought is here "I don't think he did, but, maybe he did but Mia Farrow was in "Rosemary's Baby" and potentially a propagandist (Hindi-influenced Catholic). Allen's Jewish and there's the whole bad blood between Hindus and Jews and Catholics and Jews arguably. His art is excellent, very intelligent, and very empathetic. Diane Keaton worked with him more than once and even complimented him on The Daily Show with Jon Stewart after the scandal too. I like her. I don't think she'd compliment someone who raped a child nor work with him more than once. So, was there money involved and how much? Why wasn't Allen prosecuted for rape? I honestly can't imagine living in fear of Woody Allen's retribution. He seems like one of the least intimidating men I've ever watched do anything. I just don't know. I think Polanski was drugged and set up, possibly Spacey too. I don't know, but, I do know if there were photos of it that those would be leaked and/or turned over to law enforcement and someone would at least be prosecuted for child porn, I know that."

And, I know there are some survivors who will say I should believe victims no matter what, the thing is I do. You can be a victim of false allegations too and/or survivor of that, just ask Charlie Sheen and/or myself. I've survived being raped, tortured, exploited, and false allegations. I oppose all of those. I don't think that makes me a hypocrite. Merry Christmas!

Sources for some of my compunction or reservations include:  
<https://www.nsopw.gov/en/Search/Results>

# NATIONAL SEX OFFENDER SEARCH

PERFORM A NEW SEARCH

## RESULTS

0 records from a national search including all states, territories and Indian Country for First Name begins with *Kevin*, Last Name begins with *Spacey* that were available at the time your search was performed.

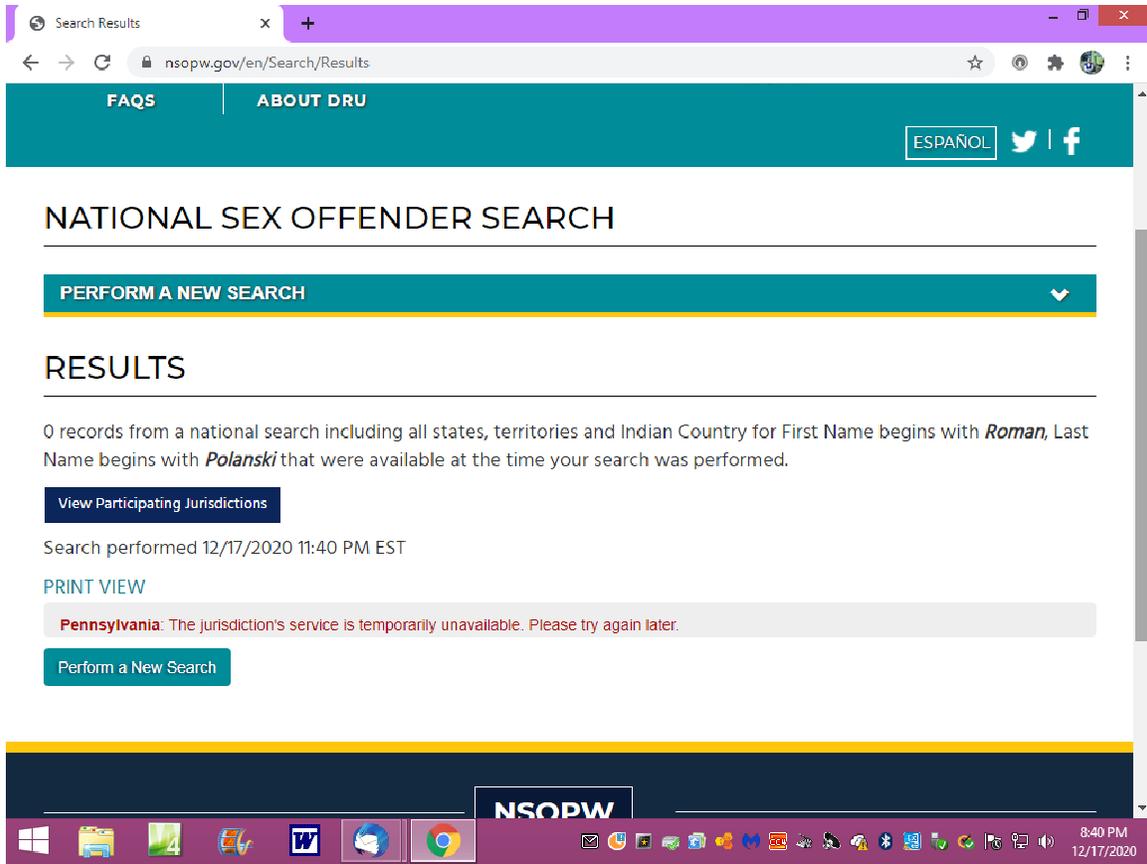
[View Participating Jurisdictions](#)

Search performed 12/17/2020 11:38 PM EST

[PRINT VIEW](#)

**Pennsylvania:** The jurisdiction's service is temporarily unavailable. Please try again later.

[Perform a New Search](#)



(I understand that Roman Polanski is out of jurisdiction and has an outstanding warrant. But, Spacey and Allen have been located the whole time so would be expected to be found in the registry which they were not which is why taking a position without being a material witness is itself arguably controversial.)

The screenshot shows a web browser window with two tabs labeled 'Search Results'. The address bar displays 'nsopw.gov/en/Search/Results'. The website has a teal header with navigation links: HOME, SEARCH, SAFETY AND EDUCATION, ABOUT NSOPW, FAQs, and ABOUT DRU. There is an 'ESPAÑOL' button and social media icons for Twitter and Facebook. The main heading is 'NATIONAL SEX OFFENDER SEARCH'. Below it is a teal button with a dropdown arrow labeled 'PERFORM A NEW SEARCH'. The 'RESULTS' section shows '0 records from a national search including all states, territories and Indian Country for First Name begins with **Woody**, Last Name begins with **Allen** that were available at the time your search was performed.' There is a 'View Participating Jurisdictions' button and a timestamp 'Search performed 12/17/2020 11:41 PM EST'. A 'PRINT VIEW' link is present. A red error message states: 'Pennsylvania: The jurisdiction's service is temporarily unavailable. Please try again later.' Below the error is a 'Perform a New Search' button.

If any criminal allegations were reported to police where the suspect is aware of the allegations against them it seems if the case was closed and the suspect was innocent they would press charges for filing a false police report, but, that's up to law enforcement. "Filing a false police report is a crime and can be charged as a misdemeanor or a felony. If you decide to call the police and file a report of a fake crime against someone else, it will be considered a false police report. This is an example of speech that is not protected by the First Amendment and is in fact considered a crime against justice itself." Source: <https://criminal.findlaw.com/criminal-charges/filing-a-false-police-report.html> This is one reason I always recommend reporting because who would report a fake crime knowing they could be charged with a crime for doing so? If you file a false police complaint, in many jurisdictions you can be charged with the crimes you falsely claimed someone else committed. So, I'm most inclined to give the benefit of the doubt to victims who at least reported it properly even if there was insufficient evidence for criminal conviction. But, where someone is assumed to have any vanity, as a result of their successes in life and someone else sees that weakness of vanity and tries to exploit it by making false claims for greedy ends, it becomes a question of who is being humble, merciful, and generous in full context and whether discretion, actual guilt, or compassion are the basis for not revealing the whole truth in courts of law.

I'll just add this here. I have a former friend who knew her boyfriend didn't want to have children ever and said she was on birth control. She intentionally got pregnant and then told me all of that. She kept the child and they got married. But, they weren't happy and the kid is the one suffering most now.

I have another former friend who used to go to Planned Parenthood clinics and steal positive birth control test results and tell her boyfriend every few months that she got pregnant again and needed money for an abortion. She wasn't pregnant. He'd give her \$500+ each time and she went to the mall. She bragged about it. I told her boyfriend at a holiday gathering of some sort what she was doing because she was about to do it again. He got angry at me for questioning her character especially at a party at her apartment. I told him the whole story and where she got the stolen test results. They did break-up, but, the way I went about saying something may have been part of the issue too. He had just said that he was sorry he couldn't afford to get her something nice for Christmas but was struggling. They cut his hours at work. So, I let him know not to fall for the fake pregnancy thing again because it was all about the money and she wasn't really pregnant.

See why the above alternate sermon is uncomfortable? Merry Christmas, again.

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>