

A REALITY CHECK CONVERSATION

Provided by COPE Ministries and authored by Minister Angela Smith

This particular handout is not for everyone who is in need of assistance though may be useful to everyone regardless of position. Financial disability can seem impossible to overcome especially if you don't know where to start and/or how to get where you want to go. But, if other disabilities are present that someone can't manage without support, then Social Security Disability Insurance can help. You can find the link to apply at <http://www.churchofphilosophicalexploration.org/resources.htm>. You will need to prove that you are disabled to receive financial assistance. And, at this time the government doesn't recognize financial disability as a qualifying ailment. So, some restrictions apply.

So, to assist those whose primary issue is financial disability in regards to survival and/or comfort, our ministry is providing the following conversation between a "seeker" of services/assistance and a "provider" of service/assistance. The "seeker" isn't representative of the majority of the financially disabled and shouldn't be taken personally. The same is true of the "provider".

CONVERSATION:

Seeker: I have nothing to offer and would like or need housing, food, clothing, and creature comforts that include at least a computer with internet access.

Provider: I'm sure you are being too modest. What skills do you have now? Can you read and write? Can you do math? Have you ever done laundry or washed dishes? Have you ever mowed a lawn?

Seeker: I'm not comfortable with your questions. I feel like you are judging me. Don't you have any compassion?

Provider: Modesty is a virtue and I thought you would take it as a compliment. If you feel I misjudged you by saying I recognize your virtue, I apologize. But, I have limited resources myself and can't support someone else's chosen lifestyle without their help as I feel that is exploitative. I don't wish to be exploited. If I work, save my money and resources, and then offer assistance to others without any reciprocity I better be a church or charity because I'm certainly not a for profit entity nor the government. And, once you are an adult the only one legally obligated to take care of you is you unless someone else has legal guardianship as a result of your being adjudicated or deemed incompetent at law. And, if looking for those who feel a moral obligation, churches and charities are where to seek assistance in the US. However, as nonprofits they often have even more restricted or limited resources and seek to help the most people they can so provide modest services and accommodations as a result of necessity and prudence.

Seeker: So, you can't help me then? What am I supposed to do? I have nothing.

Provider: Well, you have the ability to hold a conversation and some people can't even do that. And, why did you find my questions uncomfortable? Do you have those skills or not?

Seeker: What charity or church would you recommend that could meet all my needs to my taste?

Provider: If I knew more about your background it would be easier to make a recommendation. But, all the charitable providers I know encourage independence. And, when someone only takes or receives without ever giving or providing in exchange, it's slavery from some perspectives regardless of financial situation. Say our roles were reversed and you have accumulated substantial resources through your own due diligence and efforts or as a result of someone in your family doing the same. You owe me nothing legally. But, I want you to be my Daddy Warbucks ("Annie" reference) and provide me your lifestyle because I deserve it. Are you taking me in to let me live your lifestyle if I offer nothing in exchange?

Seeker: That's absurd. Stop playing games. Reality is as it is and our positions are as they are so you are just making things up to try to confuse me. What charity do you recommend for me? What church? Why don't you answer my questions?

Provider: Honestly, at this moment I'd recommend COPE Ministries. You may find their deprogramming guides helpful and they have resources to help you get your basic needs met.

Seeker: That's helpful. Thanks for nothing.

For more information on COPE Ministries and the HEAL Mission, see:

<https://www.cope.church> &

<https://www.heal-online.org>