

A Sermon on Respecting Equality

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for June 26th, 2022 (and beyond)

“The Fifth and 14th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution guarantee legal equality as well. The due process clauses of the Fifth and 14th Amendments require that the federal and state governments must follow fair and equal legal procedures in matters pertaining to an individual’s right to life, liberty, and property. The 14th Amendment says, “No state shall . . . deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.” Equality in the possession of fundamental human rights is another essential attribute of every constitutional democracy. This idea of equality was dramatically put forward in the 1776 Declaration of Independence, which proclaimed to the international community the emergence of a newly independent country, the United States of America. The declaration asserted a self-evident truth: that each person is born with equal possession of certain inherent rights, such as the right to “Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.” Further, this declaration held, “That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men.”” Source:

https://www.annenberghclassroom.org/glossary_term/equality/#:~:text=The%20Fifth%20and%2014th%20Amendments,life%2C%20liberty%2C%20and%20property .

Not only does the US Constitution (the document that is the foundation of all laws in the USA whether local, state, or federal as a result of unanimous agreement among the states) legally recognize the equality of all in the eyes of the law, COPE Ministries also so recognizes so it is also encoded in our bylaws at <https://www.cope.church/bylaws.pdf>. For the sake of equality, respecting each other’s rights to hold different views is paramount to preserving constitutional integrity. To the extent opinions differ or where controversies arise; patience, consideration, and a sense of humor assist in sustaining open lines of communication.

I ask that you watch the videos here: <https://www.cope.church/prejudice.htm> Take actual or mental note of how opposing views are handled by all sides and consider how you would respond to each of the challenges present in those videos. Was there mutual respect shown at all times? Did anyone try to impose their view, opinion, or lifestyle on others? How did they approach it? Were the parties subjected to the changes notified in advance of what they may be or just told they agree to a temporary change made by a relatively total stranger with little or no consideration for the parties subjected to the change? Would you change rules that apply to yourself and others without consulting them or giving their position/opinion equal weight to your own? If so, under what circumstances would you assume authority to subjugate those equal to you in the eyes of God and the law? Would it make a difference whether you were economically dependent or independent on how you might answer?

If you believe in equality, act like it. If you don’t, don’t bother.

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>