

A Sermon on Self-Examination

Sermon by Minister Angela Smith of COPE for April 19th, 2020 (and beyond)

For this sermon, I'll be employing a table to provide a #TaoFu set of examples to help everyone with self-examination. My intention here is to support Jesus Christ's principle as provided in the Book of Matthew Passage 7:3-5 which states "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."

Original Statement	Subjective Virtuous Response	Objective Response	Subjective Vicious Response
I can't do anything.	You are too modest. You can at least say "I can't do anything."	Have you been injured? Are you disabled? To what extent do you require assistance?	You are a pathetic loser who will be institutionalized or trafficked possibly by me.
I wish I was Donald Trump.	Having a goal to become president of the United States is admirable. Are you humble enough to be roasted on Comedy Central like Trump?	What is your current economic position? Did you inherit any tangible assets from your ancestors? Are you seeking to become president or talking more about running casinos or other areas of business? Is your wish a goal to be like Trump or to actually be Trump? Are you thinking "Being John Malkovich"? Please clarify.	#MeToo.
I need a job with a paycheck.	The government is usually hiring. The United States government is the largest employer in the US employing 22.3 million	Do you know how to do a job search? Have you had any past experience?	I know someone who might be able to help. I can get you in but you can't ask any

	<p>people according to: https://money.com/biggest-us-companies/ If looking for a paying job rather than to volunteer, the government may be a good place to start if uncertain about opportunities elsewhere.</p>	<p>What is your level of education? Do you see gaining skills on-the-job as a benefit or something that solely serves the employer and not you too? Competition for unskilled labor is fierce among applicants.</p>	<p>questions and must do as you are told. There's a contract you must sign that includes a confidentiality and nondisclosure statement along with waiver of liability and no guaranteed payment unless satisfied with your performance. There are limited openings. I need an answer right now.</p>
<p>I can't decide what I want to do and prefer if someone does everything for me where I can't decide.</p>	<p>Sometimes I have difficulty making decisions too. It seems though you may be making a choice by letting someone else decide for you which concerns me because it suggests you are subjugating yourself to the will of others rather than seeing yourself as equal to everyone else in terms of responsibility.</p>	<p>Are you disabled? Do you require supervised care? Do you have family who can provide for your care in-home or would some institutional or group home setting work for your special needs? Sometimes randomly picking from legal options actually available to you is better than letting others decide for you.</p>	<p>I prefer when others serve me too without expecting anything from me. I get it.</p>
<p>I don't like you.</p>	<p>I don't always like me either, but, usually I do.</p>	<p>Did you mean "I dislike you"? Was that a complete sentence? You don't "what" like me? You don't think like me?</p>	<p>I don't like you either.</p>

		You don't dance like me? I'd like clarification.	
I hate you.	I mean you no harm and am sorry you are in pain.	On what grounds? What is the basis of your statement? Is it ignorance and fear or something I said or did?	Feeling is totally mutual. Consider it Karma.
I love you.	I love everyone including you.	What do you mean by it?	How much? Prove it. If you don't completely subjugate yourself to me out of love then you aren't proving it enough and I won't appreciate anything less than total submission.

The above are just examples and not to be taken beyond that to suggest only the above examples apply or correlate because many variables exist in social living. It is my hope the virtuous response coupled with the objective response represents what results in greatest comfort in social situations and that everyone is aware that without objectivity it would all be narcissists and co-dependents where everyone is just emotional and subjective with people over-compensating by being arguably too emotionally virtuous in response to those too vicious.

Some who are objective yet become annoyed or impatient with the vicious interpret the Golden Rule as to mean that in the event someone is vicious towards others they are inviting a vicious response because if they are honest and arguably Christian or perceived from a Christian perspective, then they wish to be treated the way they treat others and that's implied by their actions when interpreted as being the way they want to be treated. So, it creates an exception to the notion of turning the other cheek in the face of adversity or oppression. And, that explains the Judeo-Christian Justice System we have in the United States of America. The only one who can overcome your ignorance and fear is you.

COPE accepts Feedback, critical and complimentary. Learn more at <http://www.churchofphilosophicalexploration.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:

<http://www.churchofphilosophicalexploration.church>

and

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