

Sample Article from April 2009 Issue of "Common-Sense Encourager."

The 5 Conservative Principles

By Art Rayburn

During the history of our young Nation, there has been an ebb and flow of "liberal" and "conservative" ideas. In the 1960's "liberalism" was strong. A positive change occurred with the election of Ronald Reagan. After his 2 terms, the tide started to shift back to "liberalism". Then in 1994 there was a resurgent of true "conservatism" when the Republican Party gained control of congress... but it didn't last for long. Today the Republican Party is definitely a little more conservative than the Democrat Party as a whole... but true "Conservatism" is very difficult to find in either political party.

Allow me to share the 5 foundational principles of a true Conservative.

1: Respect the Constitution of the United States:

If you ever hear a politician or other individual state that the U.S. Constitution is a "Living and Breathing" document... then you know that person is a liberal! What they mean by "Living and Breathing" is that Government control should grow... without legally amending the Bill of Rights! What a bunch of tripe. If the basics of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights can be changed without due process... then they are basically worthless.



The U.S. Constitution should NOT be a "Living and Breathing" document. It should be a solid, foundational document by which all our laws are tested! The Constitution can be changed by adding amendments to the Bill of Rights. This process takes time and ratification by 3/4 of the states. Without this type of strong Constitutional foundation, the country is tossed to and fro by the ever changing political winds.

2: Respect Life:

True conservatives believe in the *sanctity* of Human Life... not just the *quality* of Human Life. God has given all humans the gift of life, and it's not to be treated lightly. All human life is precious to God, whether it be the "unborn", the "elderly" or anyone in between. And it should be precious to us also. Without the *sanctity* of life being more important than the *quality* of life... the basic "rights" of the everyday person will be trampled on by the "elitists" in charge.

3: Less Government:

A Large Federal Government is led by those who want to control the "everyday" people. It's an elitist mentality where those in power believe governmental control of your everyday life is better than individual freedoms. In other words... the elitists think they know better than you do, so they should tell you how to live.

True Conservatives believe in less government. They believe power and freedom belong to the people. Conservatives believe in empowering individuals, instead of controlling groups.

4: Personal Responsibility:

We live in an age where a large percentage of people play the “blame game.” Instead of taking responsibility, they blame others for their negative actions or in-action.

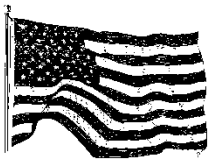
No one has a perfect childhood... and some individuals are dealt a worse hand than others in life. It doesn't always seem fair. We do not live in a perfect world, and yet that is still no excuse for wrong behavior. True Conservatives believe each individual is responsible for their own actions! This not only benefits the individual... it also benefits families and our society as a whole.

5: Protection of Personal Freedom:

As already stated, Conservatives believe in empowering individuals, instead of controlling groups. But the responsibility of the Federal Government goes one step beyond that. As Conservatives, we believe that one primary function of the Federal Government is to protect the freedom of individuals.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

--- United States Declaration of Independence, 1776



There are other principles held by true Conservatives... but these 5 are the foundational principles that define Conservatives. After reading this list, you might be a little disheartened, realizing there aren't many true Conservatives in our government today. But don't let this reality bring defeat. Always hope, because things can change. We simply need to vote for true conservatives!

It's a constant battle... be we are Americans... and we are up to the task! ☒

Sample Article from March 2009 issue of “Common-Sense Encourager.”

Is Jesus a Liberal?

By Art Rayburn

There’s a parent whose child used to attend school with my daughter. I didn’t know this individual personally, but I did see their car quite often as I picked up my daughter from school. On the back bumper of their car was a bumper sticker that read... “Jesus is a Liberal.”

Most bumper stickers don’t bother me to a great degree. But this bumper sticker drives me Crazy!!! And the main reason it does so... is because it is so completely and utterly WRONG... and it trivializes the real identity of Jesus. Jesus is NOT a “Liberal”... but neither is He a “Conservative!” Jesus the Christ is Creator of everything and everyone. He is all-powerful God!!!

Speaking of Jesus, the Bible says...

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation;¹⁶ because by Him everything was created, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities— all things have been created through Him and for Him.

Col 1:15-16 (HCSB)

... *by Him everything was created*... That kind of sums it up! Jesus the Christ is God incarnate, God wrapped in flesh. And to say that Jesus is either a “Liberal” or a “Conservative” is to try and mold Him into *your* own image. This is arrogant and wrong!

I truly believe there are more Godly values in true Conservatism than Liberalism... but in our fallen world, neither is completely “right” and neither is totally “wrong.” As an example... I believe one of the dangers of being a Conservative without a relationship with Christ is the loss of compassion for others. On the other hand, being a Liberal without a true relationship with Christ causes one to speak compassion, without a solid plan for actually “helping” the person in need. So instead of lifting up the person in need and helping them to help themselves... their compassion is nothing more than “false compassion”, that steals from the achievers... enables the lazy... and entraps those who are in actual need.

The key here is to **place Christ first in your life!** Don’t try to mold Him into your own ideology. Instead... submit your life to Him... and study His word, the Bible. Read it as a whole. Don’t just pick and choose verses just to prove your slanted view. And as you study the Bible, start living it out. Allow God to live *in* you and *through* you! Do this and you will become a more generous, compassionate, and loving person. And at the same time, you will become a person of true Godly character. You will start living a life based on God’s Word... and not on selfish desires. ☒

Sample Article from May 2010 issue of "Common-Sense Encourager."

MLM: Investment or Opportunity?

by Art Rayburn

"Do No Work and Get Rich". I see these ads all the time in the Home Business Magazines and on the Internet... but they are simply Not true. And this type of *False Advertisement* causes more harm than good. There is a lot of "hype" in the MLM industry... and the sad truth is that way too many people believe the hype.



I'm all for promoting the benefits of an opportunity and even proclaiming the "possibilities" of a Home Business Opportunity. That's just good ad copy and good marketing. But when a Home Business Opportunity or Distributor claims that all you have to do is buy their "one-time-pay" program or simply purchase a monthly qualification... and they will build your business for you... there is something wrong!!! There is no such thing as a "free ride to success" in Network Marketing. "One-Time-Pay" programs and Multi-Level Marketing programs can both be very prosperous! But building a real home based business takes time, effort and working capital. It's a business, not an investment.

When you Invest in a company, your financial gain or loss is dependent on the profits generated by the company... or at least the perceived profitability of the company. In other words... the Company does the work... and if the company is successful, you receive a return on the money you invested. If the company is not successful... you lose money.

That's not how Network Marketing works.

In Multi-Level Marketing and "One-Time-Pay" programs... the Company financially compensates you for your business building "results." The company grows when your downline grows with *paying* customers. And the company in turn compensates you for your "results." Of course, your compensation is not solely based on your "results," but on the marketing "results" of those in your downline also. That's the beauty of Network Marketing. That's also why a good compensation plan is so important!

Stop waiting around for "home business riches" to just fall into your lap. Take responsibility for your own success!

There's an old saying that goes something like this: **"The harder I work, the luckier I get!"** That statement is so true when it comes to Network Marketing! Get busy! Find a good Network Marketing program... and consistently "work" it for at least 12 months! The financial possibilities are there, but the result will depend on whether you treat your business as a "real business" or as an "investment". I encourage you to treat it as a "business"... because that's what it is! ❖