



# OVERCOME LIBERALISM



Adapted by Bill Aal & Margo Adair of  
*Tools for Change*

Liberalism rejects both the struggle over ideas and looking at history. Rather it stands for unprincipled peace, thus giving rise to a false sense of unity between members of an organization and a lax attitude about carrying out the organization's mission.

Liberalism manifests itself in various ways.

1. To let things slide for the sake of peace and friendship when a person has clearly gone wrong, and refrain from principled argument because s/he is an old acquaintance, a schoolmate, a close friend, a loved one or an old colleague. Or to touch on the matter lightly instead of going into it thoroughly, so as to keep on good terms. The result is that both the organization, and the individual are harmed.
2. To indulge in irresponsible criticism in private instead of actively putting forward one's suggestions to the organization. To say nothing to people to their faces but to gossip behind their backs, or to say nothing at a meeting but to gossip afterwards. To show no regard at all for the principles of collective life but to follow one's own inclination.
3. To let things drift if they do not affect one personally; to say as little as possible while knowing perfectly well what is wrong, to be worldly wise and play safe and seek only to avoid blame.
4. To not carry out group decisions but to give pride of place to one's own opinions. To demand special consideration from the organization but to reject its discipline. This is a fourth type.
5. To indulge in personal attacks, pick quarrels, to vent personal spite or seek revenge instead of entering into an argument and struggle against incorrect views for the sake of unity or for progress or for getting the work done properly.
6. To hear incorrect views or oppressive comments without rebutting them, but instead to take them calmly as if nothing had happened.
7. To be among the community, to provide "services" or to "advocate" for them, while failing to help people think and

act for themselves. To benefit from others suffering, while "helping" them.

8. To see someone harming the interests of the community and yet not feel indignant, or dissuade or reason with her, but to allow her to continue.
9. To work half-heartedly without a definite plan or direction; to work perfunctorily and muddle along - "So long as one remains a monk, one goes on tolling the bell."
10. To regard oneself as having rendered great service to the cause, to pride oneself on being a veteran, to disdain minor assignments while being quite unequal to major tasks, to be slipshod in work and slack in study.
11. To be aware of one's own mistakes and yet make no attempt to correct them, taking a liberal attitude towards oneself.

We could name more. But these eleven are the main types. They are all manifestations of liberalism.

Liberalism is extremely harmful in a community or organization. It is a corrosive, which eats away unity, undermines cohesion, causes apathy and creates dissension. It robs the organization of discipline, prevents policies from being carried through and alienates organizations from the community. It is an extremely bad tendency.

Liberalism stems from selfishness, it places personal interests first and justice second, and this gives rise to ideological, political and organizational liberalism.

People who are liberals look upon the principles of Justice as abstract dogma. They approve of those principles, but are not prepared to practice it or to practice it in full.

Liberalism is a manifestation of opportunism and conflicts fundamentally with principled striving for justice. It is negative and defeats our organizational and community goals.

Acting on principle, in a manner positive in spirit, overcomes liberalism.

Adapted from COMBAT LIBERALISM

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