

CONSERVATISM VERSUS LIBERALISM: DOES PHILOSOPHY REALLY MATTER?

The foundational belief system you hold determines your views on specific issues. You then have strong opinions you feel are right. The Republican Party and its platform are primarily based on Conservatism, and the Democratic Party and its platform are primarily based on Liberalism. If you look at the core beliefs of Conservatism and Liberalism, you can understand and explain the different stands taken on specific issues and the vision each has for our country.

Conservatism

Families know best how to raise their children. They need to be strengthened and have the right to raise their children the way they want.

Society is composed of individuals to be judged on their individual merit. Values individualism, self-reliance, and independence.

Individuals are responsible for themselves and their actions. Crime should be punished. Evil exists and good should fight against it.

Opportunity for all to succeed or fail. Government is responsible to maintain an environment that fosters the greatest opportunity. Limit to how much can be taken from people to give to others. Welfare should help people to become independent.

Competition is good.

Supports lower taxes.

Less government is better. Wants only necessary regulation of business, economy, & individual lives, resulting in more freedom.

Limited federal government with more power given to state and local governments.

People more important than environment.

Liberalism

It takes a “village” not a family to raise a child. Families need government help and oversight.

Society is composed of groups: black vs. white, old vs. young, rich vs. poor, male vs. female. These groups are pitted against each other.

Society is responsible for individuals. The tendency is to talk about how we need to change society when someone does wrong. Even 9/11 terrorists need to be understood.

Seeks to equalize by redistribution Supports welfare state. Government has a responsibility to provide all basic needs to all who need them, and it is morally justified taking from those that have and giving it to others, because people are entitled to basic needs.

Competition is unfair.

Supports progressive taxation with high taxes for the rich.

More government is better. Many regulations are necessary to achieve a more fair & just society which is government’s primary role, resulting in less freedom.

Powerful centralized federal government with limited state and local control.

Environment more important than people.

Conservatism

Wealth is good. All have an opportunity to be wealthy.

Equal opportunity. Same access for all. No discrimination based on race, age, sex. Reasonable differences are okay. Doesn't seek equal outcomes.

Judicial restraint with strict interpretation of laws according to the Constitution and original intent.

Free market economy.

Business is good: creates jobs & improves lives. Give freedom for them to do what they do best. Let free market supply and demand adjust practices. Let employers and employees negotiate benefits.

Traditional morality, including traditional family and values. Absolute standards of right and wrong. Absolute truth. Sees standing against wrong as a moral duty.

Right to free speech must be supported even if it offends.

Peace through strength via a strong military.

Supports a missile defense system.

American sovereignty comes before globalism.

Sees America as good: the best hope for the world.

Western cultures are superior to others without rights, freedom, and respect for life.

God is a necessary part of a good society. Religion makes people good.

Rights emphasized: Freedom, Property, Religious, Guns, Life.

Liberalism

Wealth is bad and unfair. Promotes class warfare.

Equal results through such things as quotas and equal pay for unequal work. Have to level the playing field in order to have equal opportunity.

Judicial activism: enacting social policy changes via court rulings. Constitution is seen as outdated and in need of change.

Government regulation of economy.

Business is evil: out to exploit employees, environment, and consumers. Needs to be regulated to protect consumers, employees, and the environment. Government regulates employee benefits.

Tolerance of all lifestyles & beliefs except those that are intolerant and state they have truth. No absolute standards of right and wrong. Relativism.

Right to free speech is limited to speech that does not offend. (Political correctness)

Peace through appeasement, cooperation, and understanding others' views. Dislikes showing and exercising strength.

Opposes a missile defense system.

Globalism comes before American sovereignty.

Sees America as flawed: racist, homophobic, imperialistic, sexist, ageist and no better than other countries and usually worse.

All cultures are equal. Can't pass judgment on any even if they don't value freedom, rights, and life.

State is secular (without God). Seeks to eliminate all references of God.

Rights emphasized: Civil, Privacy, Secularism, Reproductive.

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