

# 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.

Limit to how much can be taken from people to give to others. Welfare should help people to become independent (not dependent) and given to those truly incapable of taking care of themselves.

Promotes equal justice.

Competition is good.

Supports lower taxes for all because people have a right to what they earn.

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.

Wealth is good. All have an opportunity to be wealthy (the American dream). Makes a better life for all through entrepreneurship.

Supports healthcare reform that gives consumers' choices.

Free market economy.

## Liberalism

It takes a "village" not a family to raise a child. Families need government help and oversight. Cradle to grave government involvement is optimal.

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 terrorists need to be understood.

Supports welfare state. Government is morally justified taking from those that have and giving it to others because people are entitled to basic needs including housing, food, healthcare, income, etc. even if they are able to work.

Promotes social justice.

Competition is unfair.

Supports progressive taxation with high taxes for the rich in an attempt to equalize incomes through redistribution of earnings.

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.

Wealth is bad and unfair. Promotes class warfare.

Supports government takeover of healthcare and limiting of consumers' choices.

Government control of economy.

Free market creates jobs.

Business is good: creates jobs & improves lives. Let free market supply and demand adjust practices and employees/employers determine wages/benefits.

Equal opportunity without discrimination. Recognizes people make different choices with what they have and that it isn't government's role to make things fair. Doesn't seek equal outcomes.

People and property rights are more important than environment. Conservation and development of resources. Green technology should be free-market based.

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

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 some people.

Peace through strength via a strong military to support America's interests.

Supports a missile defense system.

American sovereignty comes before globalism.

Sees America as good: the best hope for the world. Believes in American exceptionalism.

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

God is a necessary part of a moral society. Religion makes people good when they know they have to answer to God.

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

Government creates jobs.

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

Equal results through such things as quotas, free college, and equal pay for unequal work. Government has to level the playing field in order to have equal opportunity. Seeks equal outcomes.

Environment more important than people and property rights. Restrict access to natural resources. Green technology government sponsored. Control energy usage with redistribution and cap and trade.

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

Tolerance of all lifestyles & beliefs except those that hold views they view as intolerant. No absolute standards of right and wrong. Moral 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 and hostile to Christianity.) Seeks to eliminate references of God through separation of church & state.

Rights emphasized: Civil, Privacy, Secularism, Reproductive.

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