



POLITICS, RELIGION, & HOLY CONVERSATION

King of Glory Lutheran Church



OPENING QUESTION

What does it mean for you to follow Jesus in the 21st Century?

LOOK TO SCRIPTURE

Micah 6:8 ⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

LOOK TO SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 1:14-16 ¹⁴ Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. ¹⁵ Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; ¹⁶ for it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

LOOK TO SCRIPTURE

James 1:27 ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

LOOK TO SCRIPTURE

Matthew 22:36-39 ³⁶ "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" ³⁷ He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

Good Samaritan

Mark 8:34-35 He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.

REVIEW - GOALS

Do some cultural diagnosis

Do some Self-diagnosis – why do I believe what I believe

Talk about Scripture, theology, and our callings as Christians.

Talk about influences in this world that affect our perceptions and loyalties.

Talk to someone with very different views, seek to understand each other.

Discuss how to engage in civil discourse outside of this setting.

Frame these discussions in relation to our church and the ELCA

REVIEW — GROUND RULES

Please treat each other with respect and dignity.

- Don't make personal attacks.
- Don't interpret difference of opinion as personal attack.
- NO profanity, name-calling*, derogatory terms (stupid, ignorant...), shouting or other attempts at intimidation, insulting body language (such as eye-rolling), insulting tone of voice (baby talk, speaking “down” to a person), open hostility, ridicule, biting sarcasm, any other disrespectful acts.
 - Name-calling can include words ending in -ist, or -phobe or beginning with anti – and similar critical terms. These are modern, politicized variations on name-calling but are still labels that can be considered hurtful and counterproductive when used to condemn or demonize a person or their ideas.

Please use “I” language when describing an experience or belief. You are entitled to your own opinion but in this setting you may not speak on behalf of an entire group. (“I disagree with what you said. Here is what I believe.”)

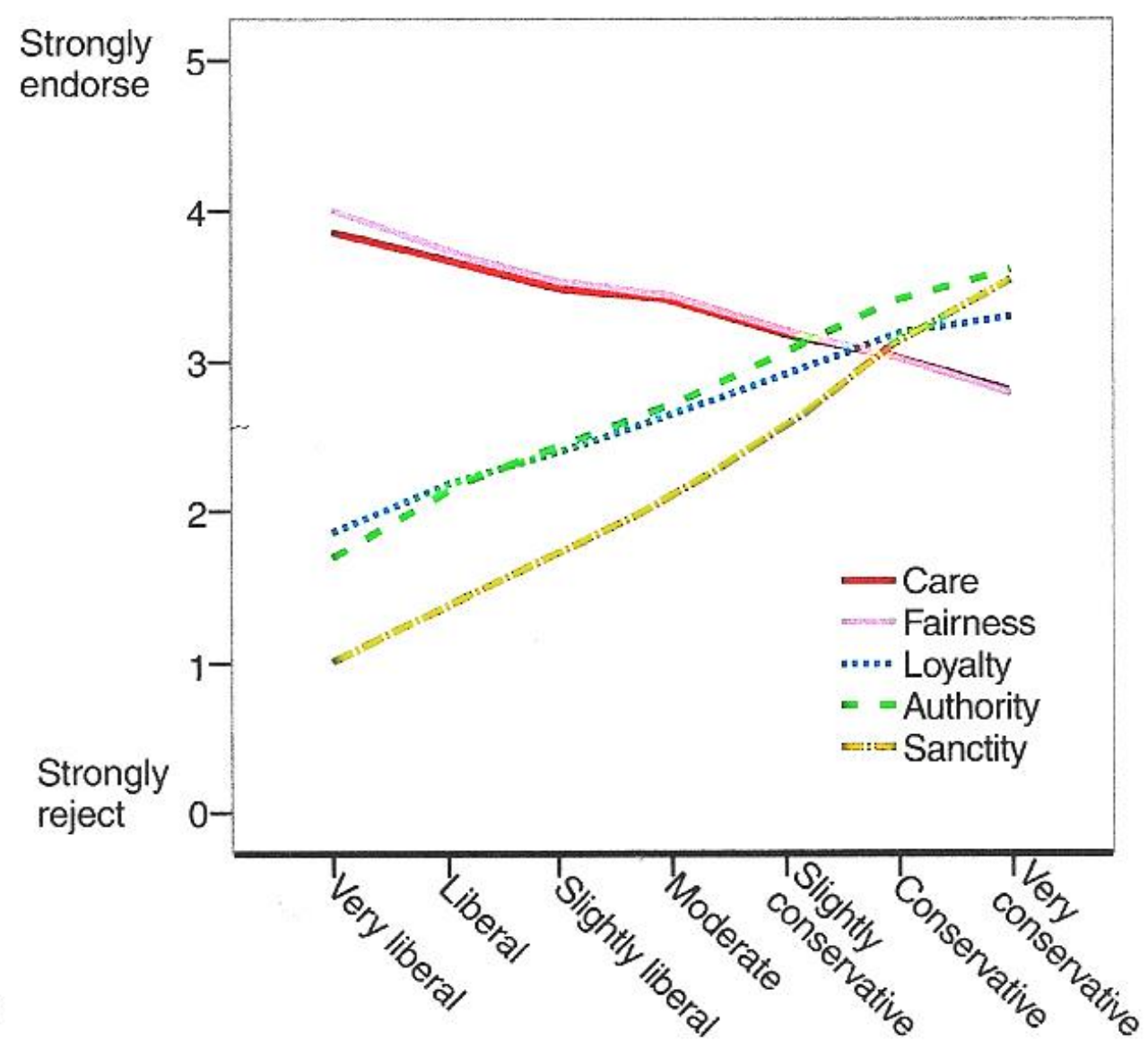
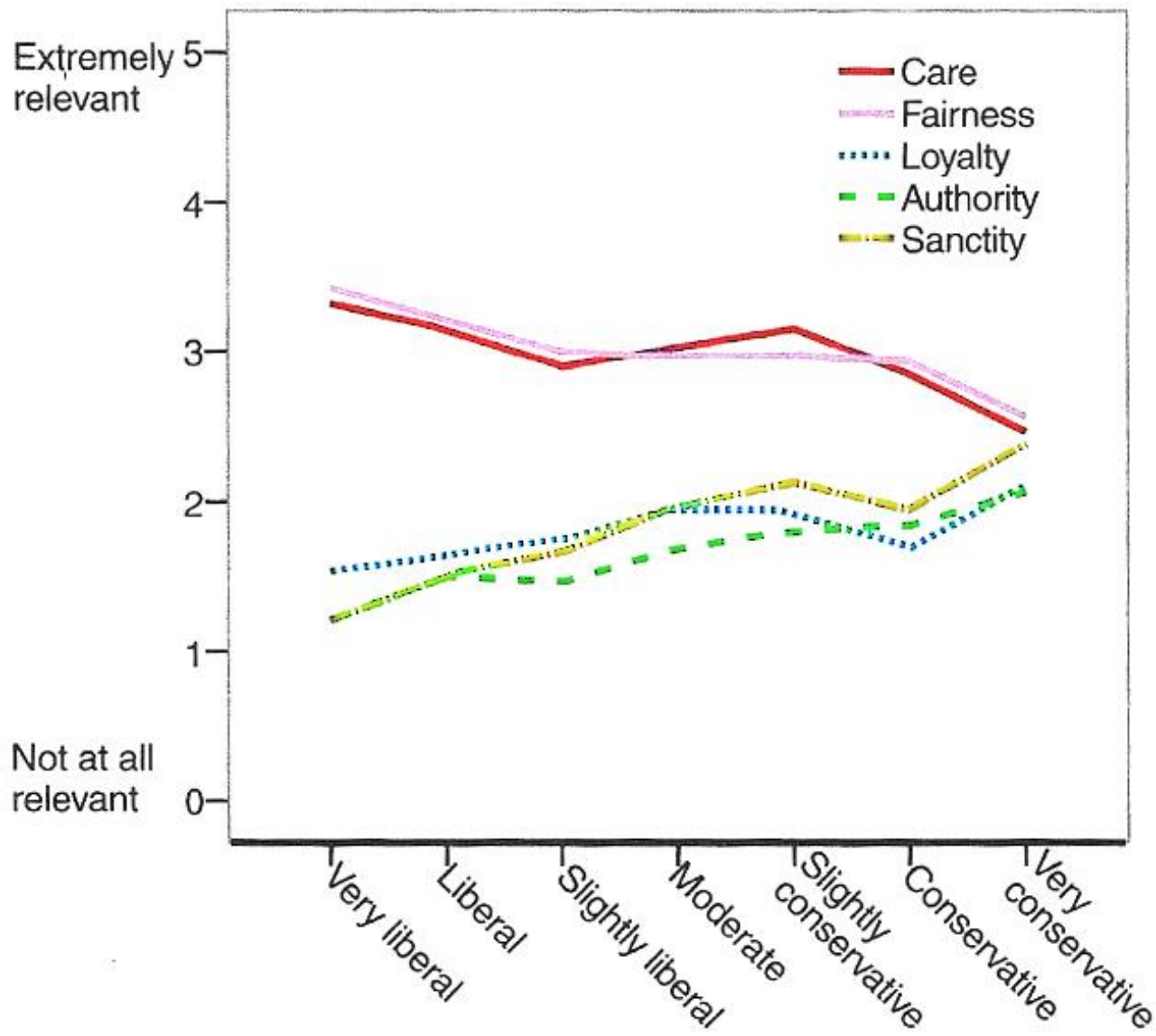
Please seek to listen to others fully before responding.

Please seek to limit the length of stories, antidotes, or examples.

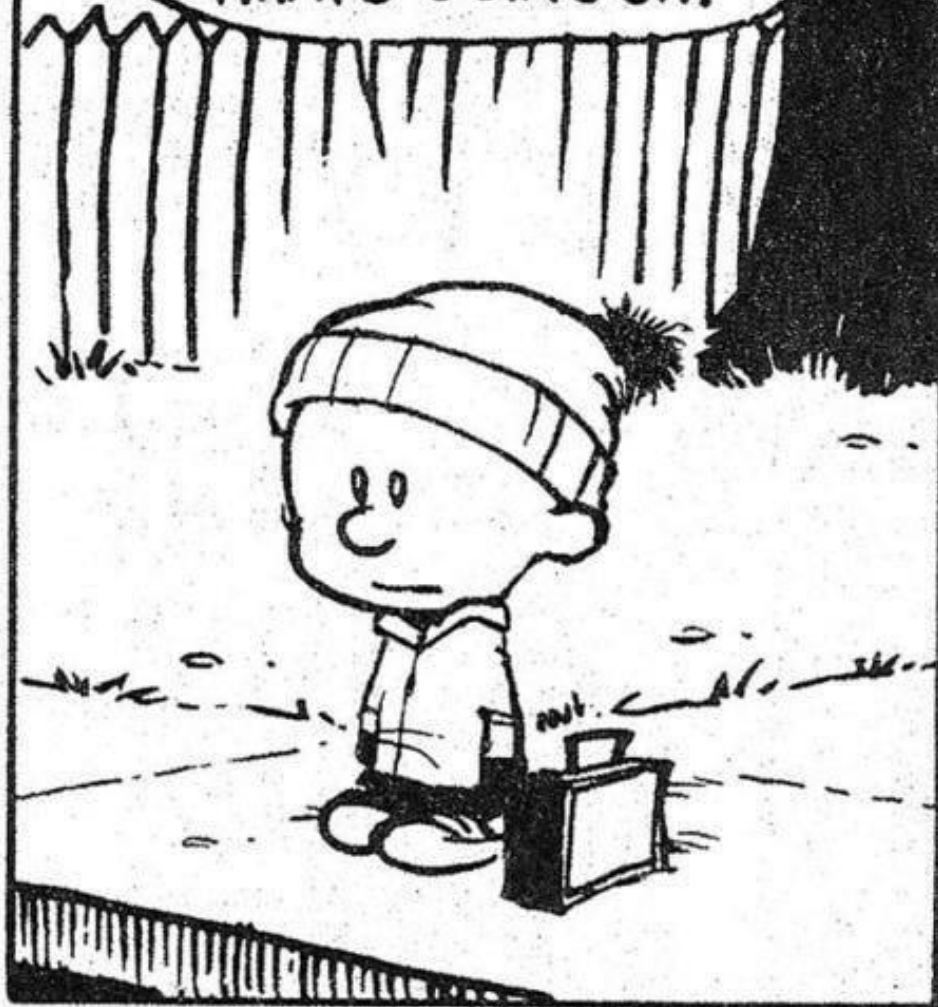
Please seek to limit cross table conversations while others are speaking.



REVIEW



HOW OLD DO YOU HAVE TO
BE BEFORE YOU KNOW
WHAT'S GOING ON?





TONIGHT

1. Learn how “WEIRD” we are.
2. Discuss Ethics of Autonomy, Community, and Divinity
3. Discuss Triggers & Moral Foundations
4. Watch Jonathan Haidt address some of these issues

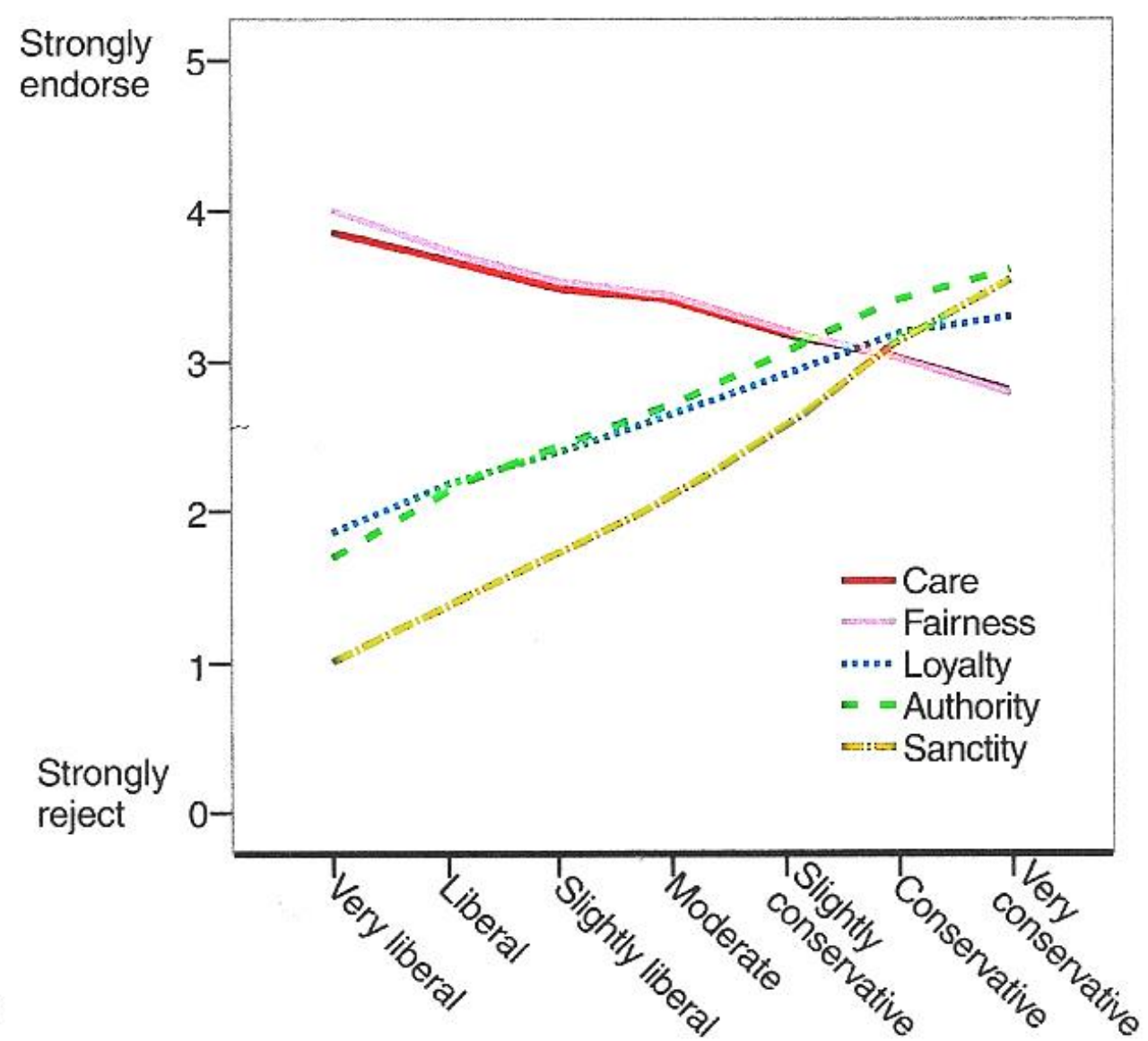
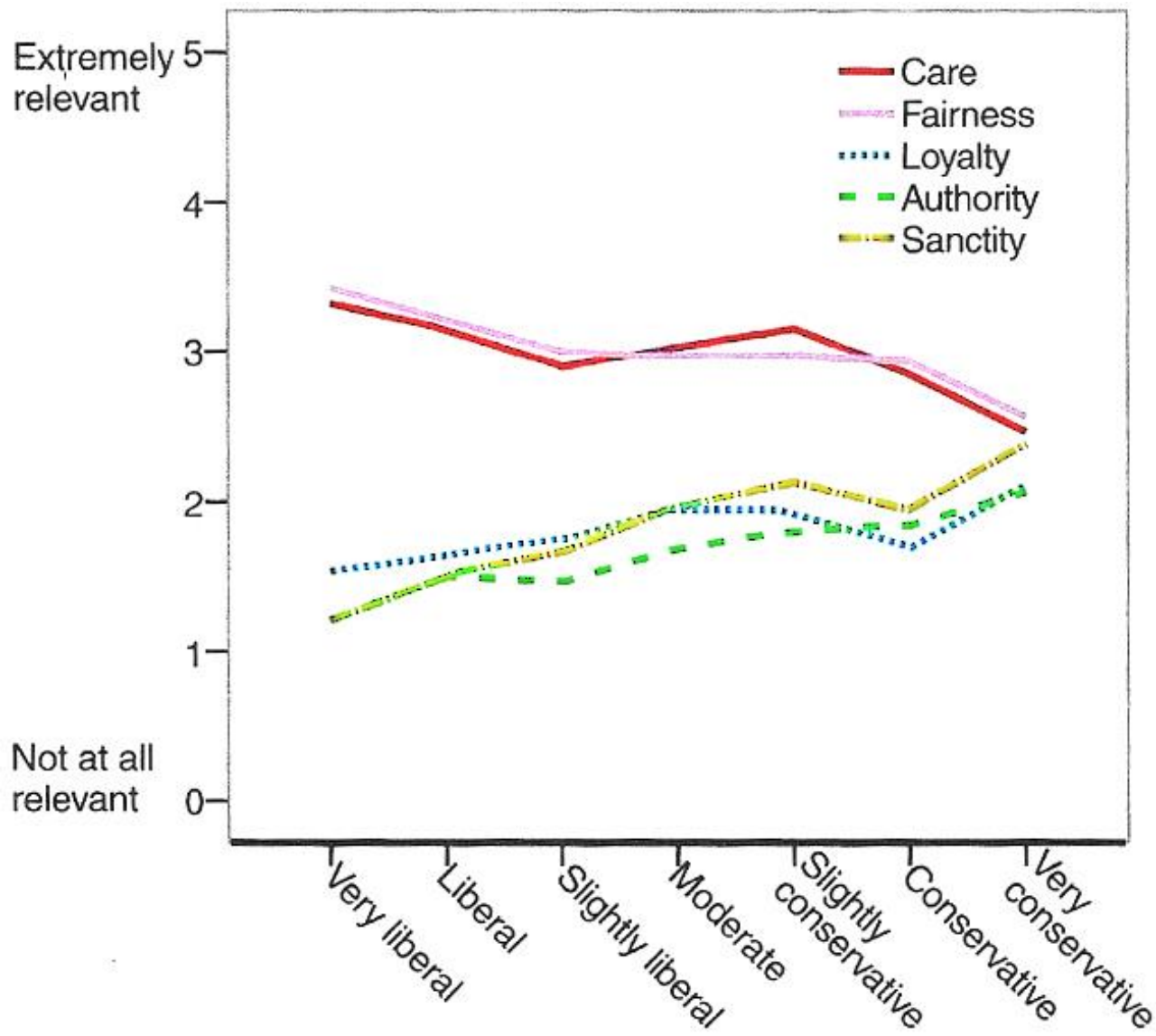


DESCRIBE YOURSELF

How much would someone have to pay you to perform each of these actions? Assume that you'd be paid secretly and that there would be no social, legal, or other harmful consequences to you afterward. Answer by writing a number from 0 to 4 after each action, where:

Column A	Column B
<p>0 = \$0, I'd do it for free 1 = \$100 2 = \$10,000 3 = \$1,000,000 4 = I would not do this for any amount of money</p> <p>1a. Stick a sterile hypodermic needle into your arm. ____</p> <p>2a. Accept a plasma-screen television that a friend of yours wants to give you. You know that the friend got the TV a year ago when the company that made it sent it to you friend, by mistake and at no charge. ____</p> <p>3a. Say something critical about your nation (which you believe to be true) while calling in, anonymously, to a talk-radio show in your nation. ____</p> <p>4a. Slap a male friend in the face (with his permission) as part of a comedy skit. ____</p> <p>5a. Attend a short avant-garde play in which the actors act like fools for thirty minutes, including failing to solve simple problems and falling down repeatedly onstage. ____</p>	<p>1b. Stick a sterile hypodermic needle into the arm of a child you don't know. ____</p> <p>2b. Accept a plasma-screen television that a friend of yours wants to give you. You know that your friend bought the TV a year ago from a thief who had stolen it from a wealthy family. ____</p> <p>3b. Say something critical about your nation (which you believe to true) while calling in, anonymously, to a talk-radio show in a foreign nation.</p> <p>4b. Slap your father in the face (with his permission) as part of a comedy skit. ____</p> <p>5b. Attend a short avant-garde play in which the actors act like animals for 30 minutes, including crawling around naked and grunting like chimpanzees. ____</p>
Total for Column A: ____	Total for Column B: ____

	Care/Harm	Fairness/ Cheating	Loyalty/ Betrayal	Authority/ Subversion	Sanctity/ Degradation
Adaptive Challenge	Protect and care for children	Reap benefits of two-way partnerships	Form cohesive coalitions	Forge beneficial relationships within hierarchies	Avoid contamination
Original Triggers	Suffering, distress, or neediness expressed by one's child	Cheating, cooperation, deception	Threat or challenge to group	Signs of dominance and submission	Waste products, diseased people
Current Triggers	Baby seals, cute cartoon characters	Marital fidelity, broken vending machines	Sports teams, nations	Bosses, respected professionals	Taboo ideas (communism, racism)
Characteristic Emotions	Compassion	Anger, gratitude, guilt	Group pride, rage at traitors	Respect, fear	Disgust
Relevant Virtues	Caring, kindness	Fairness, justice, trustworthiness	Loyalty, patriotism, self-sacrifice	Obedience, deference	Temperance, chastity, piety, cleanliness



CURRENT ISSUES

Which moral foundations are being used to make an argument for or against each particular issue?

TRIGGERS


Political parties and interest groups strive to make their concerns become current triggers of your moral modules. To get your vote, your money, or your time, they must activate at least one of your moral foundations.

- The Righteous Mind, Jonathan Haidt – pg 156






DISCUSS



you've got to emphasize
that we're all the same.



DISCUSS

A middle-aged man with short, grey hair is shown in profile, facing left. He is wearing a light blue, long-sleeved button-down shirt and a small black lapel microphone. The background is a dark blue brick wall with several warm-toned spotlights. The lighting is focused on the man, creating a professional stage atmosphere.

It's harder to get to know them.



DISCUSS



NEXT TIME

Tribes

Morality Binds and Blinds