

Charter of Compassion Concerns by Peggy McDonald

I was reading the charter for compassion. The second paragraph has to do with speech. The language in that paragraph mixes speech with violence. I believe Compassion breathes speech and not violence and that includes speech of any kind. Speech is just a conversation. It is my firm belief that the solution to inappropriate speech is more speech, not less. Speech, even hate speech, is not the same as violence. I think it is dangerous to equate the two. A person should be able to say anything without the threat of violence. Anything. To suppress any kind of speech is the first step to violence. Rush Limbaugh is a lying demagogue. I think it is dangerous to suggest he should shut up for any reason. He has admitted that he is an entertainer and that some of the stuff he says is purely for agitation. It is what people hear and make of someone else's speech that is the problem; not what some blabbermouth says. Rightfully, wrongfully, sane or insane, smart or stupid, Rush speaks for a lot of people. But, give the Devil enough rope and he'll hang himself.

What if you edited everything you said to Larry, or me to Alex because of how we thought they would feel about what we said. The relationship would not last until the water got hot. In a healthy relationship one has to be able to both hear and speak-unedited. If we go around trying to take care of everyone else's feelings, we end up on the Drama triangle. Corners: Rescuer, Victim, Persecutor. A person without boundaries, a person who allows himself to be hurt by speech, will be, from time to time, on each of those corners.

I believe that the Janes being held up as icons of compassion because they edit their own speech so as not to "hurt" others carries the seeds of hate. Simply put that kind of self editing is just bad boundaries. Self editing like that inevitably, a law of nature, leads to frustration and then to resentment and then to a lack of compassion. Rescuer (I'm going to take care of the other persons' feelings), Victim (The person I tried to rescue doesn't appreciate me or said something mean to me), Persecutor (Mean (the word I heard one friend with bad boundaries say is "vicious") people said really mean things to me and I think they should apologize before going forward because I've been hurt).

Real Compassion is being able to hear. Anything.

Therefore, I would be against the Charter for Compassion in its present form. Could you send me an email and let me know just what date you are going to do this so I can put it on my calendar and be there?

Peggy

10/24/11

I heard a statement: "The day the first man hurled an epithet instead of a stone was the day civilization began". To me there are people I am willing to invest in so that when they say something that gets to me, I am willing or have the commitment to work it out with them. Then there are people who can say whatever they want and I choose to not have a relationship with them at that time and they can just rave on and I can smile and say "I'm sorry you feel that way. Have a nice day."

It did bother me that an American Citizen was assassinated by the American government without a trial or hearing of any kind when, basically, all he had done was speech (websites, recruiting bombers etc.). I did feel better when I considered that all members of a conspiracy to commit a crime are guilty of the crime even if the "mastermind" only committed "speech" by organizing and recruiting and planning the crime. I still would like to see some sort of tribunal before they do that. I think it is a dangerous precedent.