

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

DON'T GET CONFUSED ABOUT WHAT HELPING OTHERS REALLY MEANS! This is a HUGE difference between Liberals and Conservatives!



By Stephen L. Bakke  October 12, 2014

Here's what provoked me:

I wanted to take the opportunity of pointing out how liberals tend to think they alone know what it means to be compassionate and helpful to the less fortunate among us. I believe most citizens want to be helpful but in so doing create unintended consequences.

Here's my response:

Don't Get Confused About What "Helping Others Really Means"! This is a HUGE difference between Liberals and Conservatives!

Regarding "Campaign coverage" on November 12, Mr. Thomas references an October 5th article which quoted Republican House candidate Emmer as saying "You use whatever resources are available. Your job is to help them solve whatever problem they can." Thomas can only imagine this being a misquote of Emmer or else a nonsensical comment - it seems so unlikely to him that a conservative would say something like that.

This writer's confusion represents one of the great divides between liberals and conservatives: i.e. the true meaning of "help." Emmer, definitely a conservative, is saying that it's the government's job to "help THEM solve" problems - emphasis on "them." That's the conservative way to accomplish their goals: create an atmosphere in which individuals and organizations thrive, or not, **based on their own efforts and accomplishments.**

Yes, millions of Americans need help but, very different from Emmer's intentions, too often well intended liberal policies end up being self-perpetuating traps into a system of enforced dependency and destruction of human initiative and therefore potential.

To my liberal friends I say: Decades of social programs have not made a dent in the relative plight of the poor. These programs have not worked as intended! Let's try to agree on what "equality, freedom, and liberty" truly mean. Help doesn't just mean a handout, nor does it have to come from the government. Compassion and helpfulness are NOT the private property of otherwise well-intended liberals.