

HW5 – This I believe....

It's all about compromise

I believe all people do selfish things. The dictionary defines selfish as concentrating on one's own well-being without regard for others. Even though I believe people rarely intentionally do things completely without regard for others, they generally do not stop when another person's goals or well-being does not match their own. Our current social and political systems are clear examples of this, compromise is rarely discussed and even less often is it put into action. Although, when goals do overlap, great things do get accomplished.

Some people work to make money, some people work to help people, some people work to start wars, some people work to save the environment. There are many motivations that inspire actions, but I believe they all flirt with selfishness. They all want to improve their own well-being, many times without regard of another person's "just as important to them" well-being. The economists who work for money are often characterized as selfish. Their seemingly materialistic goals rarely consider the environmental impacts or how their actions affect lives around the world. On the other hand, the environmentalists who work to save the environment are very similar. Their seemingly innocent actions rarely consider the negative impact of their actions on the lives and lifestyles of others.

Even if people claim otherwise, they constantly do things to improve their own well-being. Deep down they know they are getting always getting something out of the deal, even if it is simply to feel better about themselves. Some even claim "I only work so my children don't have to suffer." Their selfishness is the positive feelings they get by improving the lives of their children, often without considering the children across the street. No-one does anything simply to feel bad or get absolutely nothing out of it. Simply put, "everyone" is working to meet goals, better themselves, and to feel good about doing it.

We, the people of Earth, are all equal. We are all trying to improve our lives and to do the right thing. But, until we move past our self-centered lifestyles and selfish goals, we will never accomplish real well-being. Real well-being being an all encompassing, world-wide well-being that regards others as equals. Only when the economists and the environmentalist compromise, and surrender a piece of their own well-being, will they obtain more than they ever believed was possible.