

Keeping the Human Mind in Bondage

**External pressures to conform to the group norm and
internal pressures to resist change**

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A man already convinced is deaf and blind to proof that he is wrong.

In considering this issue - Keeping the Human Mind in Bondage - I have identified four areas that we'll look at. I'm sure there are many more, but we'll limit this presentation to four items: labels; gangs or assemblies; the status quo and assumptions.

I. Labels

What is a label? Well, it's a word or phrase which is used to describe a person or a group of people - usually in a derogatory manner. The act of labeling people is usually an act of demeaning them, giving the labeler a feeling of superiority or power.

2. Gangs – External Pressure to Conform

Virtually all groups – gangs, churches, clubs, governments - throughout the world have very similar organizational structures – structures that are designed to exact conformity from its members.

3. Vested Interest in the Status Quo

A “vested interest in the status quo” could also be described as a “status quo bias”. But what is it? Basically it means DON’T ROCK the BOAT!!

A person makes conservative choices because there is a strong internal desire for “loss aversion”. One makes choices within an organization that will prevent loss – loss of prestige, loss of friends, loss of potential career advancement, loss of employment - with the obvious salary and pension implications. People make conservative choices because they do not want to lose the gains they have made.

4. Assumptions

What do you assume to be true?

In this final point I make two assertions. First, **most people live their lives without ever examining assumptions.** Secondly, **when people's assumptions are challenged, they react negatively. The more uncertain they are of the validity of their assumptions, the more violently they react to serious challenges.**

Conclusion:

How Then Shall We Live?