

CONSERVATIVE CORE VALUES

CONSERVATISM may be defined as commitment to traditional values with opposition to change or innovation. In politics, conservatism is holding political views that favor free enterprise, private ownership, and socially traditional ideas.

The central tenants of conservatism are:

- Tradition
- Hierarchy
- Authority

With the aim of emphasizing continuity, conservatives seek to preserve a range of institutions such as parliamentary government, property rights, and organized religion.

Conservatives' views of the courts are based on their beliefs: maintaining the present state of affairs, conventional and rule-oriented, and disapproval of government power.

Russel Kirk developed Six Cannons of Conservatism:

- A belief in a transcendent order, which Kirk described variously as based in tradition, [divine revelation](#), or [natural law](#).
- An affection for the "variety and mystery" of human existence.
- A conviction that society requires orders and classes that emphasize "natural" distinctions.
- A belief that property and freedom are closely linked.
- A faith in custom, convention, and prescription.
- A recognition that innovation must be tied to existing traditions and customs, which entails a respect for the political value of prudence.

Kirk's list was later expanded into "Ten Principles of Conservatism":

- The conservative believes that there exists an enduring moral order.
- The conservative adheres to custom, convention, and continuity.
- Conservatives believe in what may be called the principle of prescription.
- Conservatives are guided by their principle of prudence.
- Conservatives pay attention to the principle of variety.
- Conservatives are chastened by their principle of imperfectability.
- Conservatives are persuaded that freedom and property are closely linked.
- Conservatives uphold voluntary community, quite as they oppose involuntary collectivism.
- The conservative perceives the need for prudent restraints upon power and upon human passions.

- The thinking conservative understands that permanence and change must be recognized and reconciled in a vigorous society.

Kirk said that Christianity and [Western Civilization](#) are "unimaginable apart from one another" and that "all culture arises out of religion." "When religious faith decays", he says "culture must decline, though often seeming to flourish for a space after the religion which has nourished it has sunk into disbelief."