

James the Zealot Impulsive Turbulent

Luke 6:15, Acts 1:13

Simon called the Zealot.

He left his political agenda to follow Christ.

He put himself into a higher and holier pursuit. He found the right cause. There is only one just cause, that of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Characteristics of an extremist or Zealot: (these can be true of someone on the left or the right, republican or democrat)

1. CHARACTER Assassination

Extremists often attack the character of an opponent rather than deal with the facts or issues raised. They will question motives, qualifications, past associations, alleged values, personality, looks, mental health, and so on as a diversion from the issues under consideration.

Extremists object strenuously when this is done to them, of course!

2. Name-CALLING AND Labeling

Extremists are quick to resort to epithets (racist, subversive, pervert, hate monger, nut, crackpot, degenerate, un-American, anti-semitic, misogynist, liar, bigot, and so on) to label and condemn opponents in order to divert attention from their arguments and to discourage others from hearing them out. These epithets don't have to be proved to be effective; the mere fact that they have been said is often enough.

3. IRRESPONSIBLE SWEEPING Generalizations

Extremists tend to make sweeping claims or judgments on little or no evidence, and they have a tendency to confuse similarity with sameness. This sloppy use of analogy is a treacherous form of logic and has a high potential for false conclusions.

4. Inadequate PROOF FOR ASSERTIONS.

Extremists exaggerate the significance of information that confirms their beliefs while criticizing or ignoring information that contradicts them.

5. ADVOCACY OF Double STANDARDS.

Extremists generally tend to judge in terms of intentions. Misdeeds by themselves are justified because of their intentions. Good done by opponents are condemned based on perceived intentions.

6. TENDENCY TO VIEW THEIR OPPONENTS AND CRITICS AS ESSENTIALLY Evil

To the extremist, opponents hold opposing positions because they are bad people, immoral, dishonest, unscrupulous, mean-spirited, hateful, cruel, or whatever, not merely because they simply disagree, or see the matter differently.

7. ADVOCACY OF SOME DEGREE OF CENSORSHIP OR REPRESSION OF THEIR Opponents

AND/OR Critics

This may include a very active campaign to keep opponents from media access or banning dissident spokespersons. They may actually lobby for legislation against speaking, writing, teaching, or instructing "subversive" or forbidden information or opinions. Extremists would prefer that you listen only to them. They feel threatened when someone talks back or challenges their views.

8. TEND TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES IN TERMS OF WHO THEIR Enemies ARE: WHOM THEY HATE AND WHO HATES THEM.

9. TENDENCY TOWARD ARGUMENT BY Intimidation

Extremists tend to frame their arguments in such a way as to intimidate others into accepting their premises and conclusions. They use a lot of moralizing and pontificating, and tend to be very judgmental. This shill, harsh style allows them to keep their opponents and critics on the defensive, and allows them to define the parameters of debate.

10. USE OF SLOGANS, BUZZWORDS, AND Thought stopping CLICHES.

Extremists demonstrate shortcuts in thinking and in reasoning that reinforce their prejudices and alter their own consciousness in a manner that bolsters their false confidence and sense of self-righteousness.

11. Doomsday THINKING.

Extremists often predict dire or catastrophic consequences from a situation or from failure to follow a specific course, and they tend to exhibit a kind of "crisis-mindedness." Whatever it is, it's just around the corner unless we follow their program.

12. BELIEF THAT IT'S OKAY TO DO Bad Things IN THE SERVICE OF A "GOOD" CAUSE. Extremists may deliberately lie, distort, misquote, slander, defame, or libel their opponents and/or critics, engage in censorship or repression, or undertake violence in "special cases." With extremists, the end justifies the means.

13. EMPHASIS ON Emotional RESPONSES AND, CORRESPONDINGLY, LESS IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO REASONING AND LOGICAL ANALYSIS.

Extremists have an unspoken reverence for propaganda, which they may call "education" or "consciousness-raising." Effective extremists tend to be effective propagandists. Propaganda differs from education. Education teaches one how to think. Propaganda teaches one what to think.

14. Hypersensitivity AND VIGILANCE.

Extremists perceive hostile innuendo in even casual comments; they imagine rejection and antagonism concealed in honest disagreement and dissent; they see "latent" subversion, anti-semitism, perversion, racism, distoyalty, and so on in innocent gestures and ambiguous behaviors. Many extremists adopt a paranoid style with hostility and distrust.

15. PROBLEMS TOLERATING Ambiguity AND Uncertainty.

Extremists exhibit a kind of risk-aversiveness that compels them to engage in controlling and manipulative behavior, both on a personal level and in a political context, to protect themselves from the unforeseen and unknown. The more laws or "rules" there are that regulate the behavior of others particularly their "enemies"—the more secure extremists feel.

16. TENDENCY TO Personalize HOSTILITY.

Extremists often wish for the personal bad fortune of their "enemies," and celebrate when it occurs. When a critic or an adversary dies or has a serious illness, a bad accident, or personal legal problems, extremists often rejoice and chortle about how they "deserved" it.

17. EXTREMISTS OFTEN FEEL THAT THE SYSTEM IS NO GOOD UNLESS THEY WIN.

For example, if they lose an election, then it was "rigged." If public opinion turns against them, it was because of "brainwashing." If their followers become disillusioned, it's because of "sabotage." The test of the rightness or wrongness of the system is how it impacts upon them.

Philippians 4:5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

Moderation - Mildness, gentleness, patience

Matthew 5:43-48

Jesus took the Zealot and taught him to love. Not compromise the truth, but to love. Matthew 10:7-16

1. The message was all about Jesus.

Any who disagreed, were not worth his effort.

Any who spoke against him were ignored and he doubled his efforts elsewhere.

*We get too occupied by arguing with the ideals of others when they are not engaging in discourse. We rant, we rave, we ridicule and we become ridiculous.

Focus.

2. The method was wisdom and gentleness.

love the people.

lecture the principles.

leave the perverse.

anger with the positive.