

# The Business Connector

A Quarterly Newsletter from AmSpirit™ Business Connections

## Draw Your Own Conclusions

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One thing all of us humans have in common is our senses. We see the clouds in the sky and the trees in the forest. We hear kids playing and dogs barking. We smell flowers, feel water and taste what we put in our mouths.

From here, we form opinions. We can conclude that the clouds look stormy and the trees beautiful. We can believe that the sound of kids playing is joyful and a dog's barking just plain annoying. To us, the flowers can smell fresh, the water feel cold and whatever we are eating is delicious.

The beauty of opinions in the United States is that as Americans we have every right to express them, and we generally do.

People tell us that a particular computer is faster or a certain car is cool. We can hear that the Yankees are the team of the century, Sylvester Stallone the worst actor ever, or the Ohio State marching band is "the best damn band in the land."

Opinions are great and generally offer us tremendous value. They help us sift through literally volumes of information and dozens of options. They help us determine what movie to see in our limited leisure time, and where to find the best cup of coffee.

While opinions generally provide value, there is one aspect of our lives where they have no place – in

formulating opinions of others. From time to time, an individual in our network will share with us their impressions of someone we do not know so well – if at all.

These are statements such as, "He's not very friendly," or, "She's consumed with herself." While they have a *Constitutional* right to share these views, we need to resist the temptation to adopt these impressions as our own.

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Why? Cups of coffee, computers or cars are all items that roll off some means of standard production. This makes it relatively easy for us to rely on the sweeping generalization of those that have tried these items before us. People, however, are not like cups of coffee, computers or cars.

No two people are the same. We come in all shapes and sizes. And even amongst those with similar shapes and sizes, there is a wonderful diversity of talents, temperaments and convictions.

And while social scientists attempt to categorize the human species,

the fact is we are all different. There is no means of standard production for the human race.

If none of us are the same, certainly our interactions with others will share the same diversity. If Person A is not the same as Person B, it is almost a certainty that their interaction with and opinion of Person C will be vastly different. Even if Person A and B are substantially similar, the situation under which they each encounter Person C could be wildly different.

With that in mind, just because someone has an unfriendly experience with another individual does not ensure that our experience will be the same. Perhaps the perception of this individual was over critical. Perhaps there were extenuating circumstances to the encounter, circumstances that will not impact our interaction.

God gave us our senses. We should enjoy them.

The *Constitution* gives us the right to express ourselves. We should feel free to exercise it.

But there is also a moral obligation, which calls upon us to give everyone the benefit of the doubt. And despite what others might say, we should draw our own conclusions when it comes to forming an opinion of others.▼

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