

# What is a Liberal?

## Opening words and Chalice lighting:

The essence of the Liberal outlook lies not in what opinions are held, but in how they are held; instead of being held dogmatically, they are held tentatively, and with a consciousness that new evidence may at any moment lead to their abandonment.

*Bertrand Russell*

**Welcome and check-in** (A time to share what is on your mind in order to clear it and be in the present.)

## Reading for discussion

Liberals seem to assume that, if you don't believe in their particular political solutions, then you don't really care about the people that they claim to want to help.

*Thomas Sowell*

The radical of one century is the conservative of the next. The radical invents the views. When he has worn them out the conservative adopts them.

*Mark Twain*

The liberals can understand everything but people who don't understand them.

*Lenny Bruce*

Liberalism is trust of the people, tempered by prudence; conservatism [is] distrust of people, tempered by fear.

*William Gladstone*

## Questions for discussion

Which (if any) of the above quotes challenges or affirms your understanding of liberalism?

Do you consider yourself a liberal? Why?

Do you think it is important to listen to and openmindedly consider the views and opinions of those on the opposite side of your viewpoint?

**Check-out** (A time to share likes and wishes, such as "I like how we..." "I wish we would..." or express how you felt about the group.)

## Closing words and extinguishing the Chalice:

Of all the varieties of virtues, liberalism is the most beloved.

*Aristotle*

*Thanks to everyone for their participation and commitment to our group!*