

# 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?**