

## **Public discourse**

**The pronouns “we” and “they” are the most important of all political words. They demarcate who's within the sphere of moral responsibility, and who's not. Someone within that sphere who's needy is one of “us” – an extension of our family, friends, community, tribe – and deserving of help. But people outside that sphere are “them,” presumed undeserving unless proved otherwise. The central political question for any nation or group is where the borders of this sphere of mutual responsibility are drawn.**

**Robert Reich,  
Christian Science Monitor, February 15, 2014**