

Strong Views Loosely Held

The phrase “**strong views loosely held**” (M. Andreessen) is a nudge toward both firmness and openness because it suggests the possibility of changing strong views as new evidence dictates. The phrase is typically a good guide for those who embrace strong views because it suggests the possibility of a moderating effect. Strong beliefs (based on evidence), but loosely held (susceptible to change consistent with new evidence) is also a basis of a **scientific temper**—a perspective encompassing firmness, openness, evidence, rationality, and flexibility. The phrase is also consistent with

Malcom Gladwell's notion of **Generous Orthodoxy**, embracing traditions while simultaneously being open to change. Although tradition guides primary beliefs and action, openness to change is fundamental to new beliefs and behavior.