

The Social Bond

Attachment—The most important element of the bond, it refers to the importance of relationships to others in the socialization process and internalization of norms

Commitment—This one's "stake in conformity," or the amount an individual has invested in conventional society, which is what he or she risks losing if he or she offends

Involvement—Assuming "idle hands are the devil's workshop," this element emphasizes the need to keep individuals busy doing conventional activities

Beliefs—This element of the bond refers to the extent to which an individual considers societal rules or laws to be important, and the violation of such rules to be wrong

Assumes all individuals are born with natural offending tendencies

Individual develops strong social bonds

Results in conformity and control of offending tendencies

Individual fails to develop social bonds or develops weak bonds

Results in crime committed due to lack of adequate control of natural selfish desires