

The Ten Commandments and the Golden Rule - Why Bother?

<u>Matthew 7:12</u>: (NASB) In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.



So often when people think about the Bible, they think of an ancient book full of rules given by a God who was jealous and angry in the Old Testament, and they think about Jesus as a representation of love and kindness in the New Testament. Our present social culture has decided that any necessary rules and guidelines can simply come from within each of us and that we do not need any ancient book telling us here in this age of knowledge and reason what to do! Well, is the ancient wisdom right or are we?

The Golden Rule is one of the most simple and profound sayings ever uttered at anytime, anywhere.

<u>Matthew 7:12</u>: (NASB) In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

If we allow it to be, this can be a very transformative statement.



...the Law and the Prophets - Jesus credits the Old Testament for the ingredients that make up this saying. Some say Jesus was merely copying other ancient wisdom found elsewhere - was he?

Throughout this program we will quote from other ancient cultures with a similar phrase. (The source for all such comparisons is ccel.org.)

<u>The HINDU religion</u>: "This is the sum of duty: do naught to others, which if done to thee would cause thee pain." - *The Mahabharata* (According to Wikipedia, this is an epic poem - about 1.8 million words - written in Sanskrit around 400 BCE.)

(1))Objective vs. Subjective, Does Morality Come From Us, str.org

• And so, I think we're going to need to make a distinction up front, and I've just learned this through experience that we're going to have to distinguish between "objective" and "subjective" because I find there's a lot of confusion on this. When we say something is an "objective moral truth," that just means that it's true whether anyone believes it or not. It's nothing about the subjects that ground the truth of it; it's something is objectively true, it's true whether anyone believe" means it's grounded in the subject. It's true for the person speaking, true for the subject, so it's grounded in the preference of the subject. So, it's not out there in the world; it's in here in me.



Jesus built his teachings of love and kindness on the basis of the Old Testament and its purpose.



Let us focus on what the Law said in its most basic (and abbreviated) form: Exodus 20:1-2: (NKJV) ¹And God spoke all these words, saying: ²I am the LORD your God,

who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

1 Thou shalt have no other gods before me	Observations:
2 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image	• The first four Commandments guide our relationship with the Almighty.
3 Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain	• The First Commandment is "internal action instruction," meaning it is fulfilled within our
Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy	heart and mind.The next three are "external action
5 Honor thy father and thy mother	instructions," meaning their fulfillment can be seen.
6 Thou shalt not kill	• The second six guide our relationship with our human family.
7 Thou shalt not commit adultery	• Commandments 5 through 9 are "external action instructions," meaning their fulfillment can
8 Thou shalt not steal	 The 10th Commandment is "internal action
9 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor	instruction," meaning it is fulfilled within our heart and mind.
10 Thou shalt not covet	
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GUIDE OUR RELATIONSHIP	GUIDE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR HUMAN FAMILY
INTERNAL EXTERNAL EXTERNAL EXTERN	AL EXTERNAL EXTERNAL EXTERNAL EXTERNAL

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We have somewhat of a sandwich effect - surrounding all of our actions are the internal desires of our hearts and mind.

Rachel Dolezal is the former President of the Spokane, WA chapter of the NAACP, explaining her personal race orientation in an recent interview:

()) Creative non-fiction, Rachel Dolezal, NBC Nightly News Interview

- (Interviewer) Let's ask you plainly: Have you ever lied about your race?
- (Rachel) No, because never have I been asked, "Are you human or not human?" Race as a construct, as in a fluid understanding, so I would say no.
- (Interviewer) Do you feel you've been deceptive at all?
- (Rachel) I really feel like there have been moments of some level of creative non-fiction where in order to survive or protect the people I love I have had to explain or



justify some of the timeline and logistics of my life in a way that made sense to others. So, I've tried to find words that have been able to communicate my reality to people that I'm talking to, understanding what their perceptions of the definition of race, culture and ethnicity might be.

When asked if she ever lied about her race, she talks about "creative nonfiction" and "her reality." We will come back to that thought of "our reality" versus objective reality in a little bit.

So, why do the Ten Commandments start by focusing only on God?

The key to overcoming subjective morality is to have a primary objective. If that primary objective is to worship God and Him alone, that is the highest objective for which we could ever hope! Without this standard, everything becomes subjective based on how you feel.

(1))God is subjective, Is Morality Objective or Subjective, The Atheist Experience

- (Christian guest) Let's assume right now when God made the world He said, "This is My standard of right and wrong," before He even created humans or anything, okay? He does that. Who are we as humans with a very limited understanding to tell the all-powerful, all-knowing Creator He is wrong?
- (Atheist) I don't know. Could God, when the world was created, maybe have flipped around everything we understand as conventional morality, so God could have said, "Rape is always right." Great. Thumbs up for God. Killing? Kill as much as possible. Theft is the best thing ever. Do you think that God could have made that decision at the beginning of the world?
- (Christian Guest) What? That stuff is good? Stealing and rape and all of that?



- (Atheist) Yeah.
- (Christian guest) God can do whatever He wants, I guess.
- (Atheist) So isn't that pretty subjective when it comes to morality? Isn't that just some guy's whim, basically?

Actually, God cannot do whatever He wants in the sense of this question: James 1:17: (NASB) Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

God does not change! He is bound by the barriers of His own character of love, justice, wisdom and power. God is not subjective.



(Remember, this is internal instruction.)

<u>Psalms 29:2</u>: (KJV) Give unto the LORD the glory due unto His name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

James 1:8: (KJV) A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.

This is why the Commandments start with just God. It helps to take away double-mindedness from us. There is a saying: A man who tries to catch two rabbits catches none. The idea is to have a focus for our morality. If that focus is higher than humanity, it can bring us to a true objective morality.

<u>Matthew 4:10</u>: (NKJV) Then Jesus said to him, away with you, Satan! For it is written, you shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.

Jesus understood to worship God and Him only. Satan knew this, too, but chose not to believe in that any longer, choosing instead to be subject to himself. Subjective morality was founded in the character of Satan.

Violation of this First Commandment is the beginning of the downfall of any civilization. This can be subtle - <u>happening in your mind first</u> - (Lucifer is a good example) see Bonus Material!

The defining characteristics of worship rightly placed and worship wrongly placed:

The object of your worship - what is it?

What are you really worshipping? What/who are you bowing down to in your mind?





Why have you chosen in your mind to bow down to whatever/whoever it is you are worshipping?



What are the things you are doing to show that worship? Answering these questions could be very revealing. We live in a world full of idolatry, yet according to the First Commandment, we are not to worship anything not worthy of our admiration, our praise and our loyalty. There are things in this world that are good and should be respected, but not on the same level as God.



There is no better way to target fulfilling the "Golden Rule" than by putting God first!

<u>The BUDDHIST religion</u>: "Hurt not others with that which pains yourself." Udana-Varga (According to Wikipedia, this is an early Buddhist collection of verses in Sanskrit attributed to Buddha and his disciples.)

(I))Can't prove her heritage, Rachel Dolezal, NBC Nightly News Interview

- (Rachel) Then I say I am black and this is why, and hopefully I can explain a little bit more as far as that.
- (Interviewer) Do you understand why many people would think given your parents and your heritage that is, at best, a misleading answer?
- (Rachel) I can understand that but then again up to this point, I know who raised me. I haven't had a DNA test. There's been no biological proof that Larry and Ruth Anne are my biological parents.
- (Interviewer) You doubt whether Ruth Anne and Larry, who say that they are your parents, you doubt whether they are your parents?
- (Rachel) I'm just saying, I can't prove that.
- (Interviewer) There's a birth certificate that has your name on it and their names on it. Why would you doubt something so fundamental?
- (Rachel) I can't prove that they're not, but I don't know that I can prove that they are. The birth certificate was issued a month and a half after I was born. Certainly, there were no medical witnesses to my birth. It was in the woods. Christian Questions ©2015 all rights reserved



• (Interviewer) Who do you think your parents might be?

There is a subjectivity displayed here that "it can be the way it is because I feel that way."

2 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image

<u>Isaiah 42:8</u>: (KJV) I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

God was adamant about this. God is not arrogant; He is truthful. He demands and commands our respect because of what and who He is. In making and giving recognition to "images" we take God's glory and reduce it to that which is earthly.

The consequences of this foolishness is expressed in Romans:

<u>Romans 1:21-23</u>: (KJV) ²¹Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²²Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, ²³And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things. (...And sports figures and entertainers and political figures and "selfies"...)

Violation of this commandment is the outward sign resulting from violating the First Commandment. It is a clear manifestation of a conscience either going or already gone bad. Of course in our age, the idea of a graven image has become a much more widespread imagery, from digital images to trinkets to possessions, brand names, clubs, celebrities, politicians and sports figures...we have lots of graven images in the 21st century! Therefore, we have missed the meaning of that First internal heart Commandment to put no other God before Jehovah. That is when morality becomes subjective and not objective.

What does taking God's name in vain or keeping the Sabbath have to do with the Golden Rule?

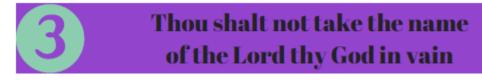
Abraham, Is Morality Objective or Subjective, The Atheist Experience

- (Atheist) Isn't the point of that story in the end that it's a good idea to be willing to kill your son if you think God is telling you to?
- (Christian guest) Hey, God makes the universe. God makes the rules.
- (Atheist) Okay, so, would you be cool with God showing up and telling you...do you have a son by the way?
- (Christian guest) No, I am only nineteen. I don't have any kids yet.
- (Atheist) All right. Would you be cool with God showing up and telling you to kill your father?
- (Christian guest) I can't answer that question...that's not even something worth answering.
- (Atheist) It was worth the Bible going into, wasn't it? Christian Questions ©2015 all rights reserved



- (Christian guest) What if I disobeyed and now I am in deep trouble afterwards?
- (Atheist) Doesn't that bother you and isn't there more that you evaluate morality by then just... if this lesson of the Bible was correct, I would think that the question of whether to kill your father or not wouldn't even be a question. It would just be, "God said it, I believe it, no problem."

Abraham before that experience with Isaac had a 40-year track record of God speaking to him and directing him. God told Abraham several times that Isaac was the promised seed. Abraham had such great faith in God that when it came time for this experience, he could fully trust God in the outcome. See <u>Hebrews 11:17-19</u>.



Take the Lord's name in vain - more literally translated to lift up or carry His name.

Taking: Strong's #5375, to lift up or carry

It implies this means more than just speaking His name carelessly. Rather, it implies *living* "His name" carelessly and senselessly. For example, being a Christian "in name only" but not living according to Jesus in daily life.

There are lots of ways to take God's name in vain, such as idolatry, hypocrisy, pride, lack of sobriety, greed and the list goes on.

The New Testament focuses more on *honoring* the name of God rather than misusing it:

<u>Matthew 6:9</u>: (KJV) ... Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed <264> be thy name.

Hallowed: Strongs #37 hagiazo (hag-ee-ad'-zo); to make holy, i.e. (ceremonially) purify or consecrate

An example of taking God's name in vain:

<u>Mark 7:6-7</u>: (KJV) ⁶He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. ⁷Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.



Violation of this Commandment is the result of the first two violations - a minimizing of the importance of the name of God. Once the first two have been violated, this one seems to be of little consequence.

After all, it is just a name and in today's world, it is not even a politically correct one.

Honor God's name and character in the same way we want our name and character to be honored.



The BAHA'I faith: "He should not wish for others that which he doth not wish for himself, nor promise that which he doth not fulfill." The Book of Certitude (According to Wikipedia, this is also referred to as the Book of Iqan. It was composed partly in Persian and partly in Arabic by the founder of the Baha'i faith in 1861.)



A caller from Connecticut suggests: James 4:8: (KJV) Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you. <u>2 Chronicles 7:14</u>: (KJV) If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal the land.

If we put God first, everything else will follow. That is why we believe the first four Commandments are all about God - if we can't get that right, how can we possibly treat each other right?

(1)) Definitely not white, Rachel Dolezal, NBC Nightly News Interview

- (Interviewer) It's one thing to embrace the questions as an academic matter. It's another thing to just actually be honest and transparent about who you are. And I think that's where people are having trouble with you, Rachel. They feel that you have been, for whatever reason and perhaps wonderful reasons, acting like you're something that you are not.
- (Rachel) Right. Well, I'm definitely not white. Nothing about being white describes who I am.



Sabbath: Strongs #7676 shabbath (shab-bawth'); intermission

<u>Revelation 1:10</u>: (ASV) I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet.

This talks about *the Lord's Day* in the ancient Christian development process. *The Lord's Day* was known as Sunday, the day after the Jewish Sabbath, Saturday. Sunday became the day of rest for Christians because it was the day Jesus was resurrected. It became the day of focusing on the rest in Christ that we have to honor God. It was the Christian fulfillment of the Jewish Sabbath.

So far, we have focused on the first four commandments - the ones that teach us to put God first. Without this as a basis, the other six commandments can



easily become subjective, as each of them needs the "God First Foundation" to truly be able to guide our behavior. That is the foundation for crystal clear objective morality.

We will begin to examine the final six commandments by *beginning with the tenth* because it, like the first, is an <u>internal instruction</u> that goes on in your head and your heart. The rest will be the expression of this Commandment.



Old Testament: Covet: Strongs #2530 chamad (khaw-mad'); to delight in

New Testament:

Covet: Strongs #1937 epithumeo; to set the heart upon, i.e. long for (rightfully or otherwise) Strongs #2206 zeloo (dzay-lo'-o); to have warmth of feeling for or against

Clearly, coveting is a very emotional thing. That can be tricky! Whenever we base our actions on our emotions, we are walking on unstable ground because emotions change. We are not to covet those things, which do not - or should not - rightfully belong to us! But we can covet something in a good way. For example, we want to honor God. We want to delight in this, covet this. But we can easily covet the wrong things.

There are defining characteristics of positive vs. negative coveting:

The object of your coveting - what is it? The reasons for your coveting - why is it? The circumstances of your coveringwhat are you doing about it?

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\dashv (1) Common ground, Does Morality Come From Us, str.org

• ...This is contrasted with the humanist approach which says the humanist thinks carefully for themselves about the best action, and they say things like this, "We, humanists, have to be empathetic of others, respect the rights and wishes of others, consider particular situations, weigh out the evidence and think about how your choices affect others." Yes, I agree! That's actually common ground. If you talk to the theist, we're going to say these are considerations as well. We don't just say here's the rule, God said it, and I believe it and that settles it. Okay, there are some Christians that say that, but that's not the process for moral reasoning for the believer. Yes, God's commands do come into play but that doesn't mean we don't do any reasoning about this. We do all those things that you just said.

<u>James 4:1-3</u>: (NKJV) ¹Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? ²You lust <1937> and do not have. You murder and covet <2206> and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.



Do not focus on what you want inside of yourself, focus on what you want as a God-honoring individual. This is how objective morality can shine far above subjective morality.

Respect all that your neighbor is and has as their own so they can do the same!

<u>Isocrates, 436-338 BCE</u>: "Do not do unto others what angers you if done to you by others." (According to Wikipedia, Isocrates was an ancient Greek orator.)



Honor thy father and thy mother

This seems to be a "transition" Commandment. The first four were focused on our relationship with God Almighty - helping us to give Him all the praise, honor and worship that He rightly deserves. It is as if God is telling us, "Okay, you now know who, how and why to honor your Creator in heaven. Now bring that knowledge down to your earthly family and give the proper honor to your parents."

If we had parental respect in our society today, life would be different. We have really lost that principle.

Ephesians 6:1-4: (NRSV) ¹Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²Honor your father and mother—this is the first commandment with a promise: ³so that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth. ⁴And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.



The human family is a picture of the heavenly family. If we do not respect the concept of honor in the earthly family environment, then how can we be expected to respect it in the heavenly?

This moment is my truth, Rachel Dolezal, NBC Nightly News Interview

• (Rachel) Nothing about being white describes who I am. What's the word for it? The closest thing I can come to is if you are black or white, I'm black, I'm more black than I'm white. On a level of values, lived experience, currently in this moment, that's the answer. That's the accurate answer from my truth.

Subjective morality produces discrepancy.

So, what does coveting have to do with honoring parents? The main reason for disrespect to parents is that we want something other than what our parents will allow. We want it, we obsess over it and then we disrespect our parents, because, "What do they know anyway?"

Violation of this commandment is a deeply troubling event, for it shows an undeveloped or wrongly-tuned conscience, destined for sorrow and grief.

Murder and adultery are next - have we lost our way THIS badly?

()) Where do these things come from, *Does Morality Come From Us*, *str.org*

• Here's the second distinction - distinguishing between knowing and grounding. No argument that the atheist can't know morality. Absolutely, we think the atheist, the skeptic, the unbeliever, the believer; every human being has the ability to know the truth about morality. Okay, so I think my atheist friends can know what is right and what is wrong. The issue here, the key issue is grounding. I got to say it again, again, and again; it's grounding, grounding, grounding! Where do these things come from if they are objective? If they're objective moral principles? Where do they come from? If they're objective moral values and duties. Where do they come from? What is the best explanation for their existence?

It isn't about just knowing right from wrong, but it is about knowing the source of that right and wrong. That is why the Ten Commandments have the first four all about God. That is the "grounding" he is talking about. If we honor the Creator and His guidance for us, we will know how to treat each other better.



Thou shalt not kill

Jesus taught us to elevate this commandment to a higher level than physical murder:

<u>1 John 3:13-15</u>: (KJV) ¹³Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. ¹⁴We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother



abideth in death. ¹⁵Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

Murder, whether literal or figurative, is a symptom of a society that truly lacks respect for fellow man, which of course has its roots in a lack of respect for God. Why should we bother with the Ten Commandments and Golden Rule? Because they will transform the way we think and live if we understand the reasoning behind them.

Murder has its seeds in a bitter, deceptive heart:

<u>Proverbs 26:24-26</u>: (NASB) ²⁴He who hates disguises it with his lips, but he lays up deceit in his heart. ²⁵When he speaks graciously, do not believe him, for there are seven abominations in his heart. ²⁶Though his hatred covers itself with guile, his wickedness will be revealed before the assembly.

Violation of this Commandment is obviously based in utter lack of respect for others and stems from our focused attention on our own ego (coveting again!). In many ways we become like Satan, *the father of lies* and the first murderer. No wonder this sin is explained in the context of Gehenna (the garbage pit in Jerusalem representing utter destruction - also please refer to our complete analysis of this word in the program called, *"Do the Fires of Hell Come From God? Part II"*) when Jesus teaches about it in <u>Matthew 5</u>!

We cannot hate because it leads to figurative murder. Remember, if we put God first, it is so much easier to deal with our fellow man.

 (η) Three race construct identifiers, *Rachel Dolezal*, *NBC Nightly News Interview*

- (Interviewer) The whole world has now seen pictures of you as a little girl, as a young woman. You look very different than you look right now. Have you changed your physical appearance?
- (Rachel) Well, definitely I have experimented with my hair, since living in Mississippi, really. And, doing hair on the porch, braiding, and that was the beginning of hair transformation for me. And, as far as other traits, I guess race boils down to hair, skin color and eye shape, right? Those are the three identifiers physically of race as construct.

Golden Hon Rule Ana

What about heritage that determines race? She has denied her heritage and reconstructed her "truth." Subjective morality makes truth what you want it to be rather than what it is.

Honor the sacredness of human life and commitments and you, too, can be honored.

Analects of Confucius, 15.24: "Tzu-kung asked, Is there a single word which can be a guide to conduct throughout one's life? The Master said, It is perhaps the word "shu." Do not impose on others what you yourself do not desire." (According to Wikipedia, the Analects are a collection of sayings and ideas attributed to the Chinese philosopher Confucius and his contemporaries. It is believed to have been written between 475 BE-221 BC and achieved its final form between 206BC-220AD.)



Thou shalt not commit adultery

<u>Matthew 5:27-28</u>: (KJV) ²⁷Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: ²⁸But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Jesus elevated this Commandment, just like the last one. Not only should one not commit the physical act, but not even the mental, internal, coveting act. Adultery is ultimate selfishness - denying the sacredness of the marriage covenant and an overwhelming evidence of coveting gone bad. Coveting is more easily out of control when God is not honored!



What about adultery on a spiritual level?

James 4:4-10: (NKJV) ⁴Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? (The world does not put God first.) Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously? ⁶But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. ⁷Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

When we put ourselves first, pride gets in the way and the most important thing is "you." You decide what is right for you (subjective), like Ms. Dolezal.

"God first" helps put all of our relationships in an honorable perspective.

Humanity is fallen and broken in this area of adultery. Violation of this Commandment carries not only disgrace, but like the previous Commandment, it carries the liability to Gehenna, for it is a blatant example of godless, covetous actions that can only bring grief.

(I)) Howard University lawsuit, Rachel Dolezal, NBC Nightly News Interview

- (Interviewer) You just said, "I'm not white. I know I'm not white." In 2002, you filed a lawsuit against Howard University alleging discrimination on the basis of you being white in a predominately black university. How do you explain those two things?
- (Rachel) You know, I was seven months pregnant, right before my second year of grad school, my last year of grad school started. And checking to see if everything is intact, because the chairmanship had changed, and he's like, what scholarship? You don't have a scholarship! You have white relatives who can probably afford to pay for this, and you can come back when you're back in shape and have a one-year old, and other people need opportunities. Definitely that was an injustice. It's one of the few times that I actually have stood up for myself.



She sued Howard University because she was white. This again demonstrates subjective morality. At this moment, "x" is true; at that moment, "x" is false.

The last two Commandments to discuss focus on stealing and bearing false witness - are they similar?



It has been said that ownership is nine tenths of the law. Stealing disrupts ownership.

We can steal by:

- Taking that which is not ours
- False advertising
- Omitting important information
- Misrepresentation

<u>Deuteronomy 25:13-16</u>: (NRSV) ¹³You shall not have in your bag two kinds of weights, large and small. ¹⁴You shall not have in your house two kinds of measures, large and small. ¹⁵You shall have only a full and honest weight; you shall have only a full and honest measure...¹⁶For all who do such things, all who act dishonestly, are abhorrent to the LORD your God.

Who is it hurting? It does not matter. Stealing does not honor God.

<u>Matthew 21:12-13</u>: (NKJV) ¹²Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. ¹³And He said to them, it is written, My house shall be called a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves.

Throughout his ministry, Jesus stood up for righteousness in its purest sense. The money changers were cheating the people and needed to be stopped.

Violation of this Commandment can be subtle in some cases, but in all cases it violates our own person just as it violates the one from whom we steal. Sometimes the "stealing" can be motivated by not wanting someone to have something and other times it can be motivated by our wanting something someone else has. In either case, we covet, sin and fall.

اntroduction, Subjective Morality vs. Objective Morality, Mark Passio, Moral Relativism

• Human freedom is being destroyed and lost at the rate that it is being destroyed and lost at for one basic over-arching reason. Human beings, unfortunately, have come to a point in their consciousness where most of them no longer know the difference between right and wrong. That's it folks, that's it.





Society no longer knows right from wrong because we assume we can create right and wrong in our own minds for what is good for "me." That assumption takes the value of right and wrong and cuts the legs out from under it. Right and wrong cannot stand on anything because inevitably it comes to a point where what YOU think is right is not what I think is right and yet we need to co-exist.

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor

We can bear false witness (which is a form of stealing) by:

- Assigning credit for a task to the wrong place
- Ruining someone's reputation
- Misrepresenting someone or something (slander or libel)

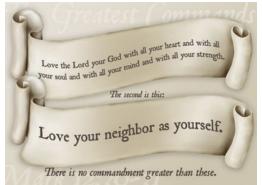
<u>Leviticus 19:16</u>: (KJV) You shall not go about as a slanderer among your people, and you are not to act against the life of your neighbor; I am the LORD.

It is so easy to bear false witness. Sometimes we do *not* say something that would be supportive of someone - not giving someone the facts they need. Bearing false witness is easy, common and acceptable...but wrong!

What is the difference between the Golden Rule spoken by Jesus and all of the other versions cited? All other versions spoke of what we should *not* do; Jesus elevates the concept and spoke of what we *should* do!

Ephesians 4:26-32: (NKJV) ²⁶Be angry, and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, ²⁷nor give place to the devil. ²⁸Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. ²⁹Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers... ³¹Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. ³²And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Violation of this Commandment indicates a deep lack of respect for truth. To achieve a level of not bearing false witness can be a monumental task, for the terrain one must trek is not only slippery but very deceptive as well.



The best way to avoid this trap of bearing false witness is to continually reaffirm the two greatest Commandments in our minds:

<u>Matthew 22:37-40</u>: (NIV) ³⁷Jesus replied: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.

<u>Matthew 7:12</u>: (NASB) In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.







Jesus built on the foundation of the Old Testament in order to teach us that the basic, core moral values given to us specifically in the Ten Commandments are *objective*. They put God first and God always. Once we get that right, the last six Commandments tell us how to treat one another. If God is in the picture first in our place of greatest honor, our respect for one another is much greater.

So, the Ten Commandments and the Golden Rule - why bother? For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions... Think about it...!

> And now <u>even more</u> to think about... only in the Full Edition of CQ Rewind!



We are not to worship anything which is not in its rightful place worthy of our admiration, praise and loyalty! Examples:

Satan the original usurper - sought self-worship and the worship of all creation:

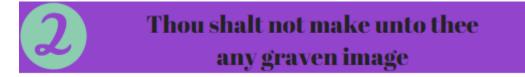
<u>Isaiah 14:12-14</u>: (NKJV) ¹²How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! ¹³For you have said in your heart: I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; ¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.

Satan did not have a rightful place to receive worship - he wanted to be recognized for what the Creator had done.

<u>Daniel 2:46-48</u>: (NRSV) ⁴⁶Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face, worshiped Daniel, and commanded that a grain offering and incense be offered to him. ⁴⁷The king said to Daniel, truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries for you have been able to reveal this mystery! ⁴⁸Then the king promoted Daniel, gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon.

So, Daniel is rewarded as the King recognizes that the God of Daniel is the God of all gods. It is important to remember that the King is here expressing a great appreciation of the Almighty and His power, for over time he is destined to forget. This is the consequence of mere appreciation rather than full and unbridled worship. Meanwhile, Daniel is living his heart-felt communion with the Almighty.

A little more on the Second Commandment:



<u>Psalms 115:1-8</u>: (NKJV) ¹Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but to Your name give glory, because of Your mercy, because of Your truth. ² Why should the Gentiles say, so where is their God? ³But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases. ⁴Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. ⁵They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see; ⁶They have ears, but they do not hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell; ⁷They have hands, but they do not handle; Feet they have, but they do not walk; Nor do they mutter through their throat. ⁸Those who make them are like them; so is everyone who trusts in them.

<u>1 John 5:19-21</u>: (NKJV) ¹⁹We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. ²⁰And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. ²¹Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.



A little more on the Tenth Commandment:



Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

Examples: Satan the original coveter:

<u>Isaiah 14:12-14</u>: (NKJV) ¹²How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! ¹³For you have said in your heart: I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; ¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.

There is a repeated pattern that will run through all examples of covetousness:

- The Observation Stage: Seeing something attractive
- The Thought Stage: Holding and personalizing the image of that which is attractive
- The Rationalization Stage: Convincing one's self you "deserve" that which you covet
- The Action Stage: Turning the inward sin of covetousness into an outward sin of action



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James 4:1-4: (NKJV) ¹Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure <2237> that war in your members? ²You lust <1937> and do not have. You murder and covet <2206> and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures <2237>. ⁴Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

(Source: ccel.org)

A. MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE JESUS WAS SIMPLY REPEATING WHAT OTHERS HAD ALREADY TAUGHT; FOR EXAMPLE...

1. The HINDU religion taught: This is the sum of duty: do naught to others, which if done to thee would cause thee pain. The Mahabharata

2. The BUDDHIST religion taught: Hurt not others with that which pains yourself. Udana-Varga

3. The JEWISH traditions taught: What is hateful to you; do not to your fellow men. That is the entire Law; all the rest is commentary. The Talmud

4. The MUSLIM religion taught: No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself. Hadith

5. The BAHA'I faith teaches: He should not wish for others that which he doth not wish for himself, nor promise that which he doth not fulfil. The Book of Certitude

6. And Yet Some Other Sources: Do not do unto others what angers you if done to you by others.

Isocrates 436-338 BCE "Tzu-kung asked, Is there a single word which can be a guide to conduct throughout one's life? The Master said, It is perhaps the word "shu." Do not impose on others what you yourself do not desire. Analects, 15.24

B. BUT JESUS' "RULE" WAS POSITIVE, WHILE MOST OF THE ABOVE ARE NOT ...

1. Jesus' "rule" requires you to do something favorably to others, while the others only prohibit you from doing something unfavorably to others.

2. With the others, all that is required is that you don't harm other people; with Jesus, what is required is that you show kindness to others.

3. Jesus' rule is truly the GOLDEN Rule; the others are SILVER rules (of value, yes, but not as much as "gold").