



Part 3: The Role of Rules

Practically speaking, rules are often the centerpiece of religious life. Many people think the Ten Commandments are rules that make a relationship with God possible. If you follow the rules, God will be happy. If you don't, he won't. But what if a relationship with God doesn't depend on our obedience? When it comes to your relationship with God, what is the role of rules?

Discussion Questions

- What are some rules that you had in your house growing up? Did you feel like the rules were controlling or caring?
- What were the most important rules for you growing up? Which rules are still important to you?
- In general, how do you react to rules? What rules are the hardest for you to keep?
- Chris spoke about three models of relationships: *family, club, or neighborhood*. Which best represents your understanding or experiences of rules and relationship in religion?
- Read Exodus 20:1-3. Have you considered that God declared a relationship with the people of Israel before giving the Ten Commandments? What do you think of this?
- What value do the Ten Commandments have today?
- What rules do you think matter most to God?
- Read John 1:12. Have you entered a relationship with God through the door of faith or have you been trying to behave your way in?

Moving Forward

Those who knew Jesus best tell us that he is the starting point of faith. He came to bridge the gap created by our sin—not our unintentional mistakes, but our sin. Recognizing our sin paves the way to restoration and redemption.

Jesus isn't put off by your sin. He's ready to forgive your sin and restore God's relationship with you.