



SESSION THREE | THE ROLE OF RULES

INTRODUCTION

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?

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VIDEO SUMMARY

- Rules always assume a relationship.
- God's rules didn't establish his relationship with Israel; they were confirmation of his relationship with Israel.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In general, how do you react to rules? Do you tend to keep them or break them?
2. Talk about a time when you made rules for someone else. What was the purpose of those rules?
3. What happens to a relationship when someone breaks a rule?
4. Growing up, did you feel like religion was based on the family model, the club model, or the neighborhood association model?
5. Have you considered that God declared a relationship with the people of Israel before giving the Ten Commandments? What do you think of this?
6. When it comes to our relationship with God, do you think the rules come before the relationship or is the relationship first? What are the implications of this?

MOVING FORWARD

You can find out a lot about a person by the rules he or she imposes. They tell you what the person values. They tell you who the person values. This is true of God's rules too. They're not a condition for relationship with him, they're confirmation of that relationship. They provide us with a framework for healthy relationships with God and others. His motive is one of provision and protection for the people he loves.