

## THE DECALOGUE

The Old Testament moral code, summarized in the Decalogue, is nothing but a simplistic religious creed together with the rule of filial duty and a number of Don'ts designed to reinforce the traditions and favor the cohesion of a <sup>embattled</sup> barbarian ~~and embattled~~ tribe. It does not appeal to any moral feelings and it is not a guide to happiness or justice, let alone wisdom. Christianity, at least in theory, adds fraternity and charity, but limited to the Christian community, and it sanctions slavery. As for love and peace, the Sermon on the Mount makes it clear that the former is to be limited to Christ, and that the latter came to wage war on the unfaithful, not peace on earth. As for the practice of Christianity, or what passed for such, is has been a history of fanaticism, hatred, and bloodshed, just like the history of Islam.

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