

“金规则”能支持“共同道德”的可能性吗？

The Prospects for A Common Morality and the Golden Rule

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[英文提要]

One dimension of the covenant between people as a model for social organization is the common endorsement of moral precepts that are impartial to any particular tradition among the parties involved. Both the recognition of such universal precepts and the capacity to conduct affairs in conformity to them are a manifestation of God's common grace. This paper explores whether the so-called Golden Rule, "Do to others as you would have them do to you," is a universal moral precept. The author concludes that while it is a universal precept, it is not, strictly speaking, a precept of morality. Nevertheless it is an important principle that covenant partners should take seriously.

The teaching of the Golden Rule itself is far more important than the role it may have in a shared meta-ethics or in increasing the prospects for a common morality. That teaching is a clear warning, evident to anyone free of self-deception, that as moral agents, each of us needs to act responsibly, for how we treat other human beings will likely be how we shall be treated. On this truth the Confucian, Jewish and Christian traditions converge. In the words of the apostle Paul, "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A person reaps what he sows."