

Reality's Rules

Ten Commandments to Avoid Extinction

Grace Limits for the 21st Century (Conditions for Existence)

Thus sayeth the Lord...

1. Stop thinking of me as anything less than the voice of undeniable and inescapable Reality.

“Imagining that I am a clockmaker outside a clockwork Universe is a form of idolatry — an unreal notion of me — that is creating hell on Earth and leading to your own extinction. The Universe is *not* a machine; it is my voice and my hands!

“Reality is my secular name and the Cosmos is my local Self. If you don't honor my presence within Time and Nature, your grandchildren, and theirs, will condemn you *and* your religion.”

2. Stop thinking of 'divine revelation' and 'God's word' apart from evidence.

“Imagining that my most important and up-to-date guidance was provided thousands of years ago belittles me — and has made you blind and deaf to what I have been revealing for centuries now through all forms of evidence. Your scientific, historic, and cross-cultural discoveries, discerned through global collective intelligence, are my evidential revelation.

“Facts are my native tongue and trends are my bullhorn. If you fail to honor evidence as modern-day scripture — more authoritative than elders and ancient texts — you will perish.”

3. Stop thinking of Genesis, or your creation story, apart from Big History.

“The history of everyone and everything that I have revealed through evidence, including what you call 'green history,' or 'environmental history,' must be incorporated into your Creation myths and sacred rituals as rapidly as possible.

“Without a factual view of my deep-time creativity, extending over billions of years, you will have a pathetic notion of me and how I reveal truth, a trivial view of science and religion, and a dysfunctional and even suicidal understanding of your past, present, and possible futures.”

4. Stop thinking of theology apart from ecology.

“Nature's ways are my ways. When you overshoot the carrying capacity of the land, air, and sea — when you dishonor Grace Limits through overpopulation, overexploitation, or pollution beyond Nature's ability to transform it — you betray me and condemn future generations.

“Thinking that you could worship me without honoring my Nature — which, of course, includes the soil, forests, and everything upon which you depend — is idolatry. Repent of your human-centered theologies and come home to me, to Reality, to your true Self. The entire Earth community will be rooting for you.”

5. Stop [defining and measuring 'progress'](#) in short-term, human-centered ways.

“Making decisions with the seventh generation in mind isn’t just a good idea; to do otherwise is evil. You must immediately begin [measuring progress, growth, and success](#) in ways that honor Primary Reality — for example, by how rapidly you can de-carbonize the atmosphere, build soil, restore wetlands, reforest the land, and preserve other species and their habitats.

“To think that you could master and control my Nature is proof of your [idolatry](#). Humble yourselves and [work with, rather than against, the restorative](#) and [regenerative](#) dynamics of this living planet. Doing so will enable you, over time, to restore the Garden you so foolishly defiled in your anthropocentric hubris.”

6. Stop allowing the [free or subsidized polluting of the commons](#).

“[Externalizing the true costs](#) and environmental impacts of your business activities onto society, the community of life, or the future is not merely short-sighted; it is evil. Repent and redesign [your economic system](#) so that it [mimics the laws of ecology](#). And stop creating chemicals and technologies that defile my Nature.

“The impact that individuals, corporations, and nations have on the larger body of Life, for good or ill, [must be reflected back to them](#). Only then will they be [incentivized](#) to do what is right, just, and ecological, and deterred from doing what is wrong, unjust, and reprehensible.”

7. Stop using renewable resources faster than they can be replenished.

“*Unsustainable* is just a pretty word for evil...how is this not obvious? My grace is boundless only if you honor [my Nature](#) and don’t exceed the rate at which my living systems — soil, forests, groundwater, oceans, ecologies — can renew themselves.

“[Limits are sacred and must be honored!](#) As you are now painfully discovering, the story of Adam and Eve is about dishonoring [Grace Limits](#), not disobedience.

“Stop driving other species — plants and animals alike — to extinction. It is both foolish and self-destructive to dishonor [the living beings inside of you](#) and outside you that make your life possible. Do whatever it takes to [preserve biodiversity](#), including ethically reducing your numbers and [assisting other species in migrating](#) as the climate shifts.”

8. Stop using non-renewable resources in ways that harm or rob future generations.

“All [metals, minerals, and other non-renewable resources](#) should be recycled as close to one hundred percent as possible. Your energy intensive, throwaway culture of greed — what you deceptively refer to as a ‘global free market’ — is an abomination.

“To reduce your use of non-renewable resources you must re-inhabit [your local communities, your watersheds, your bioregions](#); there’s no other way. Simplify your lifestyles and become a blessing to your human and non-human neighbors — and, thus, to posterity. In so doing you will become *saviors*, rather than destroyers, of the future. Regardless of beliefs, the former are *Christ-ians*; the later, anti-Christians.”

9. Stop exploring for coal, oil, and natural gas—[keep most of it in the ground!](#)

“You must reduce carbon dioxide and methane emissions as much as possible, as rapidly as possible. Given that you already have [five times more fossil fuels in reserve than is needed to create hell on Earth](#) and drive you to extinction, it is insane to keep exploring for more.

“And for my sake, and yours — but especially for the sake of your grandchildren, and theirs — don’t rely on hopes, prayers, or techno-fix miracles. Rather, reduce your consumption habits and energy use substantially and immediately!”

10. Stop prioritizing the [wants of the wealthy](#) over the [needs of the poor](#).

“When I said, ‘*the love of money is the root of all evil*,’ and ‘*whatever you do unto the least of these, you do unto me*,’ I meant it! Periodic jubilees, or occasions of [general and generous debt forgiveness](#), are not optional; they are *necessary* if you hope to avoid societal breakdown.

“Your current economic system rewards the few at the expense of the many, measures progress by how fast it can turn the biosphere into pollution, and forces billions to betray the future in pursuit of the so-called ‘good life.’ The fact that you don’t call this [demonic \(which it is\)](#) is further proof of your idolatry.

“When [your local and regional economies](#) honor [Grace Limits](#) and the wellbeing of [my Nature](#) *first*, and when you stop making excuses for the inexcusable gap between rich and poor, then and *only* then will a just, healthy, beautiful, and sustainably life-giving future be yours.”