

The literal golden rule:

If you want X to do something to you,
then do this same thing to X.

This leads to absurdities in two cases:

different situations

~~If you want Dr. Davis to
remove your appendix,
then remove her appendix.~~

flawed desires

~~If you want others
to hate you, then
hate them.~~

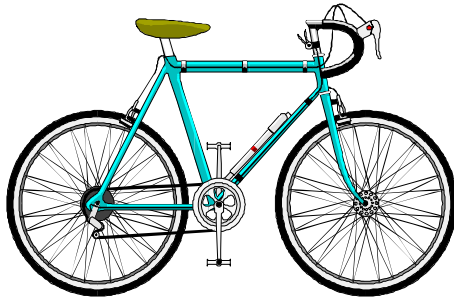
Gensler's GR

Treat others only as you consent to being treated in the same situation.

GR forbids this combination:

- I do something to another.
- I'm unwilling that this be done to me in the same situation.





If you're conscientious and impartial,
then you won't steal Detra's bicycle
unless you're willing that your bicycle
be stolen in the same situation:

You steal
Detra's
bicycle

→
conscientious

You believe it would
be all right for you
to steal her bicycle

↓ impartial

You're willing
that your bicycle
be stolen in the
same situation

←
conscientious

You believe it would be
all right for your
bicycle to be stolen in
the same situation

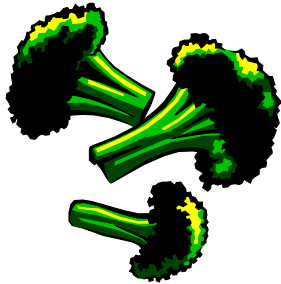
Gensler's GR

Treat others only as you consent to being treated in the same situation.

Formulating GR correctly requires:

- (1) a **SAME-SITUATION** clause,
- (2) a present attitude toward a hypothetical situation (say “**WILLING THAT IF**”), and
- (3) a **CONSISTENCY** form that forbids a combination (acting + being unwilling to be treated that way) instead of commanding specific actions.

GR involves imagining yourself
in the other person's situation.



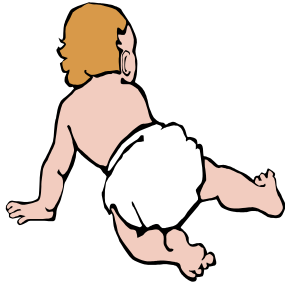
I'm a waiter who hates broccoli
and thus don't want it served to me.
If I follow GR, can I serve broccoli
to a customer who ordered it?

Ask
this



Am I now willing that if I
were in the same situation
then this be done to me?

GR involves a present attitude
toward a hypothetical situation.



Little Will puts his finger
into electrical outlets. Does
GR let us discipline him?

Ask
this



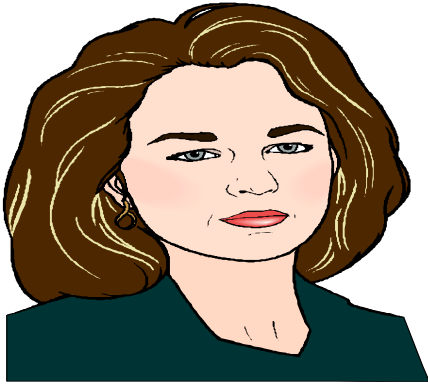
Am I now willing that if I
were in the same situation
then this be done to me?

GR forbids an inconsistent action-desire combination. Satisfying GR-consistency doesn't guarantee that your action is right.

“I grow rich with my coal mine while paying my workers only \$1 a day.”



The owner (ignorant of what \$1 can buy) is willing that he be paid \$1 in his workers' place. It doesn't follow that his act is right.



Ima Masochist: I want to be hurt.

Does GR tell me to hurt others?

Can I hurt others without
violating GR?

- Have her imagine herself in the place of her non-masochist victim.
- Criticize Ima's irrational desires.
- GR forbids an inconsistent action-desire combination. Satisfying GR-consistency doesn't guarantee that her action is right.

The golden rule: *procedure (KITA)*

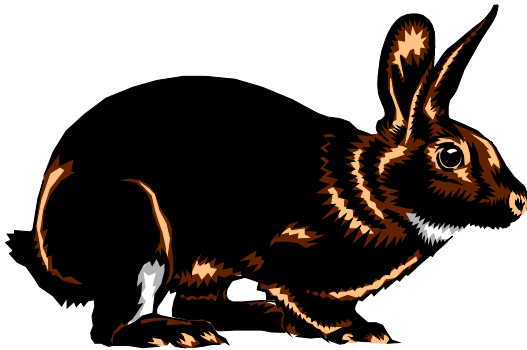
1. Know: “How would my action affect others?”
2. Imagine: “What would it be like to have this done to me?”
3. Test for consistency: “Am I now willing that if I were in the same situation then this be done to me?”
4. Act toward others only as you’re willing to be treated in the same situation.



The love norm: *motivation*

“Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Seek to do good and not harm to others, *and do this for their own sake.*)

“Treat others as you
want to be treated”
≠ “Treat others as they
treat you.”



Does the golden
rule apply to our
treatment of
animals?



The Golden Rule is a GLOBAL STANDARD that's deeply rooted in different religions and cultures.

As the world becomes more and more a single interacting global community, the need for such a common standard is becoming more urgent.

<http://www.harryhiker.com/goldrule.htm>

GR's Relatives

- Self-regard: Treat yourself only as you're willing to have others treat themselves in the same situation.
- Future-regard: Treat yourself (in the future) only as you're willing to have been treated by yourself (in the past).
- Universal law: Act only as you're willing for anyone to act in the same situation – regardless of imagined variations of time or person.

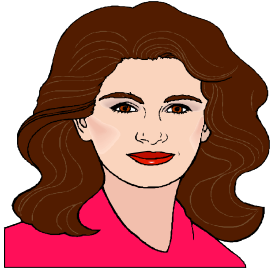
CELI	Conscientiousness, ends-means, logicity, impartiality
FUGS	Future-regard, universal law, golden rule, self-regard

GR: Our attitudes are defective if we treat others as we aren't willing that we ourselves be treated in the same situation.

Why follow GR?



GR is self-evident
(and provable).

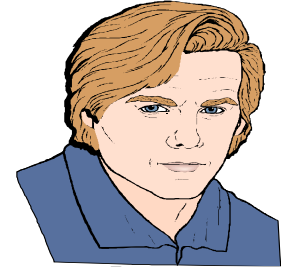


God wants us
to follow GR.

GR is a demand
of our culture.



GR fits my
altruistic feelings.



I'm happier
if I follow GR.

