



## The Eight Commandments

Romans 8:1-4

Message from Pastor Martin Hawley

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**Bottom Line:** All religions aren't wrong, they are just incomplete. They lead to our need for a Savior.

### Introduction:

One of the criticisms of Christianity is that we believe we are right and everybody else is wrong ... that all other religions are wrong.

Some say that all religions essentially teach and believe the same thing. The thought being to just pick one and stick with it. These people believe all religious paths eventually merge somewhere – probably after death.

But – devout Muslims would disagree. So would Jews, Christians, and most Buddhists.

Are there similarities? Yes!

Are there shared values? Yes!

Are there similar prohibitions? Yes!

All have a similar version of the Golden Rule: treat people the way you want to be treated.

In the *Abolition of Man*, C. S. Lewis lists common teachings from the American Indians, ancient Greeks, ancient China, and Judaism:

1. Don't harm others with word or deed.
2. Honor your parents.
3. Be kind to siblings and the elderly.

4. Don't have sex with another person's spouse.
5. Be honest in all your dealings.
6. Don't lie.
7. Care for those who are weaker.
8. Put others first.

The other thing all major religions share is failure. Everyone eventually falls short.

Every religion that believes in God offers advice on what to do when you mess up.

BUT – that's where the roads diverge! What to do about the missteps, failures, sins?

**Bottom Line:** There is a God. God has a standard for you to live by. But it's too hard, so good luck!

**Jesus offered a permanent solution to the “We've messed up, what now?” question.**

(Read Romans 8:1-4)

**The unresolved issue in religion is “Where do I stand with God?” Jesus resolved that for us.**

### **Conclusion:**

If you wonder where you stand with God, you are a candidate for God's grace. A gift that's not worked for but simply received by shifting your trust.

Are all religions wrong? No, just incomplete.

All religions point to three things. We ought to. We don't. We are at odds with God.

Religion leads us to our need for a Savior. So, God sent his son into a religious world, so we could let go of religion and embrace a Savior.

**“For what the law was powerless to do, God did by sending his own Son to be a sin offering.”**

### **NEXT STEPS:**

- Memorize: Romans 8:3.**
- Pastor, today I have decided to follow Jesus.**
  - Pastor, I want to learn more.**
    - Sign me up for Starting Point on Tuesday night.**
    - Sign me up for Community Group on Thursday night.**
- I will be here next week for Part 4 of Losing Your Religion: Unfair and Uncomfortable.**

**NEXT WEEK— LOSING YOUR RELIGION: UNFAIR AND UNCOMFORTABLE**

Fairness isn't a argument.