



A Code of Jewish Ethics: Volume 1: You Shall Be Holy

Joseph Telushkin

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

A Code of Jewish Ethics: Volume 1: You Shall Be Holy

Joseph Telushkin

A Code of Jewish Ethics: Volume 1: You Shall Be Holy Joseph Telushkin

A Code of Jewish Ethics, Volume 1: You Shall Be Holy is the initial volume of the first major code of Jewish ethics to be written in the English language. It is a monumental work on the vital topic of personal character and integrity by one of the premier Jewish scholars and thinkers of our time.

With the stated purpose of restoring ethics to its central role in Judaism, Rabbi Joseph Telushkin offers hundreds of examples from the Torah, the Talmud, rabbinic commentaries, and contemporary stories to illustrate how ethical teachings can affect our daily behavior. The subjects dealt with are ones we all encounter. They include judging other people fairly; knowing when forgiveness is obligatory, optional, or forbidden; balancing humility and self-esteem; avoiding speech that shames others; restraining our impulses of envy, hatred, and revenge; valuing truth but knowing when lying is permitted; understanding why God is the ultimate basis of morality; and appreciating the great benefits of Torah study. Telushkin has arranged the book in the traditional style of Jewish codes, with topical chapters and numbered paragraphs. Statements of law are almost invariably followed by anecdotes illustrating how these principles have been, or can be, practiced in daily life. The book can be read straight through to provide a solid grounding in Jewish values, consulted as a reference when facing ethical dilemmas, or studied in a group.

Vast in scope, this volume distills more than three thousand years of Jewish laws and suggestions on how to improve one's character and become more honest, decent, and just. It is a landmark work of scholarship that is sure to influence the lives of Jews for generations to come, rich with questions to ponder and discuss, but primarily a book to live by.

A Code of Jewish Ethics: Volume 1: You Shall Be Holy Details

Date : Published March 7th 2006 by Harmony

ISBN : 9781400048359

Author : Joseph Telushkin

Format : Hardcover 576 pages

Genre : Religion, Judaism, Literature, Jewish, Judaica, Nonfiction, Spirituality

 [Download A Code of Jewish Ethics: Volume 1: You Shall Be Holy ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online A Code of Jewish Ethics: Volume 1: You Shall Be Holy ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online A Code of Jewish Ethics: Volume 1: You Shall Be Holy Joseph Telushkin

From Reader Review A Code of Jewish Ethics: Volume 1: You Shall Be Holy for online ebook

Sunny says

Really worth reading

Melvin Marsh, M.S. says

A truly excellent book on Jewish ethics. Through this I learned that the things I thought I was doing wrong based on what other people have said I was actually doing correct (by the book). I highly recommend everyone read this book if you are interested in Jewish ethics.

Nathan Albright says

While I wouldn't consider my reading of this book an example of hate-reading, I read this book knowing that my thoughts on it would be somewhat mixed and complicated. On the one hand, I am deeply critical of the mishnaic approach to God's law, seeing as it tends to substitute human reasoning for divine lawgiving, and this book is organized in the same format as the Talmud with various chapters and references to non-authoritative rabbis and the like. While I did not know what organization the book had, I knew that the author's statement that this was a code of Jewish ethics meant that it would engage more with the human religion of Judaism than with the biblical worship I endeavor to follow, although on the positive side there is certainly a great deal of overlap between the two at least. Since I read this book looking to see what a reasonably conservative look at Jewish ethics would be, I came in with curiosity as to whether there would be any worthwhile nuggets for me to examine and found to my pleasure that there was much to think about and much to reflect on and even repent about, and so I consider the reading successful in that regard. I came looking to learn something and I did indeed, and if you come to learn there will likely be something here for you as well.

In terms of this book's contents, this book consists of 57 short chapters and other material in five larger parts and numerous smaller sub-chapters that take a bit more than 500 pages of reading. Despite the book's size, its structure does mean that the material flows well, even when the author is writing about material that is obviously meant for Jewish insiders who know (and care) what was said by the Vilna Gaon or Maimonides or one of the figures from the Talmud. After a long set of acknowledgments, the author discusses the task of a lifetime (I) including Judaism's ethical essence (1) and building character by dealing with free will and human nature (2), developing goodness (3), and knowing ourselves and guarding against our weaknesses (4). The author then discusses basic virtues and vices (II) including the need to judge others fairly (5,6), become a grateful person (7), show good manners and civility (8,9,10), develop common sense (11,12), repent (13,14,15,16,17), properly forgive (18,19), develop humility (20,21,22,23), manage anger (24,25,26,27,28), avoid humiliating others (29,30,31), overcome envy (32,33), and deal with hatred and vengeance (34,35,36). After this the author moves on to dealing with fair speech (III), examining the Jewish laws on the subject (37,38,39,40,41,42,43), examining criticism (44,45,46), and dealing with truth and lies (47,48,49,50). After that there are two brief chapters on living a holy life (IV) as ambassadors for God (51,52), some chapters on God and ethics (V) that involve the relationship between belief in God and personal morality (53,54) and the importance of Torah study (55,56,57) before an appendix looks at the nine

most important commandments according to rabbis, including the Sabbath and circumcision.

Is this particular volume worth reading? If you have an interest in applied Jewish ethics, where there is some biblical discussion but a great deal of discussion about Jewish culture and history and tradition, there is a lot to appreciate here. Even if one has ambivalent and complicated views about such matters, there are still a few things one can read here that are worth applying. I particularly appreciated the author's discussion of embarrassing others as being a sin almost as serious as murdering someone, something which I think ought to be more highly appreciated by those who seek to obey God's laws, and also thought a great deal about the author's discussion on the lashon hara--evil tongue--which manifests itself in a variety of discussions concerning gossip, deception, rumors, and related forms of forbidden speech. These are matters I struggle against, and as a book critic, even more often than most people do. I also was pleasantly surprised to share the author's views concerning permissible lies in scripture, something I may write about at more length if someone wants to hear what I have to say about the subject. The book gave me plenty of food for thought and some areas in life that could probably use a bit more work, and that is a good deal of worth in a book on ethics.

Damian says

How to live an ethical life. One of the most practical religious books I've ever read. Its part of whats renewed my lifelong interest in Judaism.

Sari says

Everyone should read this book. This to me is where spirituality is found...in the basic way we live our day to day lives.

Robert says

This is one of the most insightful and thought-provoking books I've read -- I read it years ago, just after my divorce, when I felt adrift.

I pick it up now and then and reread parts of it. There are some parts that seem unimportant, but there is a lot that is very important. It makes me think again about the intersection between Jewish and Christian ethics (and about their differences, which it tries to delineate); most importantly, it makes me think about what is important in the way a life is lived.

"Love your neighbor as yourself"; this is the major principle of the Torah. *Rabbi Akiva*

David says

A thought provoking book. Tells how Judaism deals with issues such as envy, greed, etc. I liked how the

book gave present day stories, etc, in addition to anecdotes from the Bible.

It would have been nice to hear about present day Jews standing up for persecuted groups today, such as Muslims, and issues like divorce, but that might be for another book.

Lisa says

I'm reading this to prepare myself for a new 7th grade class I'm teaching; it is fascinating so far! I particularly like how Telushkin differentiates between ritual observance and ethical observance: is a crooked businessperson who goes to services every week, keeps kosher, and celebrates every holiday an "observant" Jew? Teleushkin says no.

Heather Schwartz says

Clear and concise discussion of jewish ethics that are already discussed in many other places. A good "starter" book

Steve says

I have yet to finish this book. But each page offers more to ponder over. This is self-reflection in a good way. I keep it on my nightstand with a pencil and read from it now and then when I need to be inspired.

Stephanie says

Intensely informative.

Lisa says

A work to study.
