

UECC - Universal Ethical Common Code

With the Help of the One True King, the Living God of the Universe

The UECC (Universal Ethical Common Code) is the global moral covenant that humanity received at Mount Sinai. This covenant obligates both the people of Israel and all the descendants of Noah (all nations of the world) to uphold ethical principles.

The foundation of this universal moral covenant traces back to the Patriarchs. After the global flood, the Creator of the Universe established a covenant with Noah, who was chosen to continue humanity's mission. This covenant included seven fundamental ethical laws, establishing moral principles, including justice and honesty, and forbidding all forms of theft, fraud, and exploitation.

These universal principles are based on the fear of the Creator, who watches over all His creations. Abraham, our forefather, declared in Genesis: *"And Abraham said: Because I thought, surely there is no fear of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife."* (Genesis 20:11) According to the Rabbinic tradition, one should not engage in business with those who lack Torah values and fear of Heaven.

The Central Principle of the Covenant

The core commandment of the covenant is found in Deuteronomy 12:28: *"Observe and listen to all these words which I command you, that it may go well with you and your children after you forever, when you do that which is good and right in the eyes of the Lord your God."*

What is "the Right" (הַיָּשָׁר) in the eyes of the Creator?

1. A person must always uphold their **word and commitments**, as commanded in **Deuteronomy 23:24**:
"You shall keep and fulfill what comes out of your lips."
2. One must be **truthful and consistent** in both internal character and outward actions, as taught in the **Talmud (Yoma 72b)**:
"A person must be inwardly as they appear outwardly."
3. A person should not **speak deceitfully** or act with duplicity, as the **Talmud (Bava Metzia 49a)** states:
"One should not speak with one mouth and think with another."
4. Any commitment a person makes must be upheld, even at **personal loss**.

5. Contracts and agreements must be honored, ensuring integrity in both **verbal commitments and signed documents**.

What is "the Good" (הטוב) in the eyes of the Creator?

1. A person must care for the **needs of others**, both close and distant, according to their ability.
2. In business, one must seek **mutual benefit** for all parties and avoid **causing harm**.

Practical Implementation of the UECC

1. **Employers** must ensure **fair treatment and rights** for their employees, helping them grow and succeed.
2. **Employees** must show **loyalty and dedication** to their workplace and contribute to its improvement.

Spreading Ethical Business Principles

Our vision is for the **UECC (Universal Ethical Common Code)** to be taught in **every business school and workplace** worldwide. Its significance comes from its **shared foundation in the Sinai revelation**, where the Creator revealed His universal moral law to all humanity through Israel.

To **promote and implement this ethical covenant voluntarily**, it is essential to create **global databases and networking centers** for ethical business connections:

- **Businesspeople** who commit to following the **UECC's ethical principles** in all areas of commerce will accept the **Seven Noahide Laws** as a standard of conduct.
- **Employers, manufacturers, and service providers** will commit to implementing **ethical business practices** toward their employees and customers.
- **Employees in all professions** will commit to ethical business conduct toward **both their employers and their clients**.
- **Men and women** will commit to treating their **spouses and families** according to these moral principles.

The UECC and Business Integrity

The **UECC (Universal Ethical Common Code)** establishes the ethical foundation of Derech Eretz (upright conduct) according to the Torah's teachings. For businesspeople, the most important question before entering any business transaction is: Does the person standing before me have a fear of God? If they do, there is

a high likelihood that they will refrain from theft, fraud, and deception.

The Seven Noahide Laws

The **Universal Ethical Common Code (UECC)** is founded upon the Seven Noahide Laws, which serve as the fundamental moral principles for all humanity. According to the tradition of our Sages (Chazal), six commandments were originally given to Adam, the first man. The seventh commandment, the prohibition of eating flesh from a living animal (Ever Min HaChai), was later given to Noah and his descendants after the Flood. Thus, the term "Seven Noahide Laws" applies to all of humanity, as these commandments are the universal ethical framework for righteous living.

The Sages taught: **Seven commandments were given to the descendants of Noah¹:**

1. **Establishing a system of justice (Dinim).**
2. **Prohibition against blasphemy (Birkat Hashem).**
3. **Prohibition against idolatry (Avodah Zarah).**
4. **Prohibition against sexual immorality (Gilui Arayot).**
5. **Prohibition against murder (Shefichut Damim).**
6. **Prohibition against theft (Gezel).**
7. **Prohibition against eating the limb of a living animal (Ever Min HaChai).**

The Seven Noahide Laws and the Giving of the Torah

Although six of these laws were given to Adam and the seventh was given to Noah, they only received full authority at the Giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. At that moment, the Jewish people were commanded to ensure that all of humanity observes these laws.

¹ Talmud Bavli, Tractate Sanhedrin 56a-b. Additional Opinions from the Talmud: Rabbi Hananya ben Gamliel adds: "Also the prohibition of consuming blood from a living animal." Rabbi Chidka adds: "Also the prohibition of castration." Rabbi Shimon adds: "Also the prohibition of sorcery." A Beraita from the school of Menashe states: The Seven Noahide Laws are: Prohibition against idolatry (Avodah Zarah). Prohibition against sexual immorality (Gilui Arayot). Prohibition against murder (Shefichut Damim). Prohibition against theft (Gezel). Prohibition against eating the limb of a living animal (Ever Min HaChai). Prohibition against castration (Serus). Prohibition against crossbreeding species (Kilayim). Rabbi Yehuda holds that Adam was only commanded regarding idolatry, as it is written: "And the Lord God commanded the man..." (Genesis 2:16) Rabbi Yehuda ben Beteira adds that Adam was also commanded regarding blasphemy (Birkat Hashem). Some Sages state that Adam was also commanded regarding establishing justice (Dinim).

From this, it follows that every Jew has a responsibility to spread knowledge of the Seven Noahide Laws among the non-Jews they interact with.

Historically, such outreach was difficult and even dangerous, which is why it was not widely pursued. However, in modern times, not only is there no danger in spreading this knowledge, but doing so also brings appreciation and support for the Jewish people from the nations of the world. A Jew must support Noahides and be careful not to cause a non-Jew to violate these commandments.

The Seven Noahide Laws in Detail:

1. **Prohibition against idolatry** – Worshipping foreign gods is forbidden.
 - a. **Positive aspect:** Belief in **One God**.
2. **Prohibition against blasphemy** – One must not desecrate or curse the Name of the Creator.
3. **Prohibition against murder** – It is forbidden to take a human life, including the unborn.
4. **Prohibition against sexual immorality** – This includes **adultery, incest, homosexuality, and bestiality**.
 - a. Specifically prohibited are **relations with**:
 - One's **father's wife (stepmother)**.
 - **Another man's wife**.
 - **One's mother**.
 - **One's maternal sister**.
 - **A man with another man**.
 - **A human with an animal**.
5. **Prohibition against theft** – All forms of stealing, extortion, and fraud are forbidden.
 - a. This includes even **taking an amount worth less than a *perutah* (a minimal coin value)**.
6. **Prohibition against eating flesh torn from a living animal** – It is forbidden to eat any part of an animal that was removed **while it was still alive**.
7. **Establishing a system of justice** – Societies must create **courts and legal systems** that enforce these laws and ensure justice.

Sources and Legal Authority:

These laws are codified in Rambam (Maimonides), Laws of Kings, Chapters 8-10. Obligation to appoint judges – To ensure that law

and justice prevail in society. Prohibition against eating flesh from a living animal – It is forbidden to cut a limb from a living animal and consume it.

The Three Commandments for Which One Must Die Rather Than Transgress

There are **three prohibitions in the Torah** that a person must uphold **even at the cost of their life**:

1. Idolatry (Avodah Zarah)
2. Murder (Shefichut Damim)
3. Sexual Immorality (Gilui Arayot)

Preparing the World for Redemption

Observing the Seven Noahide Laws and working toward a new era—one without war, hunger, jealousy, or destructive competition—is the path to redemption. These efforts are part of the mission of the Messiah, who prepares the world for the final redemption—"the true and good Original New World Order" as ordained by God.

Tikkun Olam – Repairing the World Under the Sovereignty of God

Restoring the Original Divine Order Through the Seven Noahide Laws

1. **Belief in One God – The Prohibition Against Idolatry**
 - a. Every individual and every nation must **recognize the One Creator** who **made the world and humanity**.
 - b. God is aware of all human actions and thoughts, guides them, and judges each person according to their deeds.
 - c. **He is the Creator and the only true King**—He alone is worthy of worship and prayer.
 - d. **Practical Application:**
 - i. Absolute prohibition against **bowing to or worshipping any idols or false gods**.
 - ii. Forbidden to believe in **any deity or supernatural being** other than the One Creator.
2. **Honoring the Creator – The Prohibition Against Blasphemy**
 - a. A person must **honor the Creator**, who gave them life and the world to inhabit.
 - b. **Practical Application:**
 - i. It is strictly forbidden to **curse or speak derogatorily about God** in any form.

3. **Respect for Human Life and Freedom – Procreation and the Prohibition of Murder**
 - a. **Every human being is created in the image of God**, and life is a divine gift.
 - b. No one has the right to take the life of another.
 - c. Humanity has been given the ability to **settle and sustain the earth**, ensuring the continuity of future generations.
 - d. **Practical Application:**
 - i. Absolute prohibition against **killing any human being, including an unborn fetus**.
 - ii. Taking a single life is considered as if one has **destroyed an entire world**, violating the divine image in which humans were created.
4. **Respect for Property and Freedom – The Prohibition Against Theft**
 - a. **God granted every person ownership over their possessions**, and no one has the right to take what belongs to another.
 - b. **Practical Application:**
 - i. Absolute prohibition against **stealing, extortion, or forcibly seizing property**, whether through deceit, coercion, or any unlawful means—whether private, governmental, or political.
 - ii. Includes prohibitions against **wage withholding** and **kidnapping**, regardless of the victim's age.
 - iii. Respect for others' property fosters **charity, kindness, and generosity** toward those in need.
5. **Preserving Family and Moral Integrity – The Prohibition Against Sexual Immorality**
 - a. **God created man and woman as a single entity** before separating them into two distinct beings who **complement each other**.
 - b. **Marriage and its laws** are fundamental to the continuity of humanity and the strength of the family and community.
 - c. **Practical Application:**
 - i. Prohibition against **incestuous and forbidden relationships**, including:
 1. Relations between a man and **his father's wife (stepmother)**.
 2. **Adultery**—a married woman having relations with a man other than her husband.
 3. Relations between a man and **his mother** or **maternal sister**.
 4. Relations between **men (homosexual acts)**.
 5. **Bestiality (sexual relations with animals)**.
 - ii. Observing **family purity and modesty** ensures the strength and sanctity of the home.
6. **Respect for Animals – The Prohibition Against Eating the Limb of a Living Animal and Castration**
 - a. **God created living beings**, and humans must **respect their existence**.

- b. Unlike plants that regenerate, harm to an animal is **irreversible**.
 - c. While the Torah **permits the consumption of meat**, it **sets ethical boundaries** for human use of animals.
 - d. **Practical Application:**
 - i. Absolute prohibition against **eating a limb removed from a living animal**.
 - ii. **This law instills compassion**, preventing cruelty toward animals and reinforcing sensitivity toward human suffering.
- 7. Establishing a Just Legal System – The Obligation to Appoint Judges and Enforce Laws Equally**
- a. Every nation must establish **honest courts** that provide **equal justice for all citizens**.
 - b. Judges must be **righteous and uphold the Seven Noahide Laws**, legislating laws that reflect divine morality.
 - c. **Practical Application:**
 - i. Courts must ensure **just and fair trials**, without **discrimination or corruption**.
 - ii. Governments must enforce laws that are **consistent with the Seven Noahide Laws**.
 - iii. A nation **cannot morally exist** without a legal system rooted in **divine justice**.
 - iv. Judges must have the **authority to punish those who violate these laws**, ensuring order in society.

The Seven Noahide Laws as the Foundation of Human Civilization

These Seven Laws serve as the core ethical structure for the world. Their detailed applications are studied in both the Written Torah and Oral Torah, particularly in the Talmud, Tractate Sanhedrin, and summarized in Rambam's Mishneh Torah, Laws of Kings, Chapters 9-10.

Beyond these Seven Laws, the nations of the world are also obligated in additional commandments derived from the Torah of Moses and the customs they have accepted for the proper order of civilization (yishuv olam).

Among these additional ethical obligations are:

- The commandment to be fruitful and multiply (procreation).
- Honoring one's parents.
- Acts of charity and kindness.
- Avoiding behaviors that contradict the purpose of human civilization.