

# The Noahide Code

What is the Noahide Code? The Noahide code is a ancient set of moral and legal laws that are the foundation of human morality. The Noahide Code consists of seven laws:

***No Idolatry.***

***No Blasphemy.***

***No Murder.***

***No Theft.***

***No Illicit Sex.***

***No harming animals unnecessarily.***

***Establishment of courts of justice.***

The Congress of the United States recognized the legitimacy of the Noahide Code on March 20, 1991, when former President George H. Bush signed Public Law 102-14, establishing Education and Sharing Day. In its text, this law states “ethical values and principles have been the bedrock of society from the dawn of civilization, when they were known as the Seven Noahide Laws.”

The Noahide Code is not a religion. There is no official “creed” or theology that one has to accept. The Noahide Code can be summed up as, “What is hateful to yourself, do not do to another.”—Rabbi Hillel

Anyone who has read the Bible should understand the Noahide Code. You should not worship any other god except the G-d of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. You should not blaspheme G-d. You should not murder, steal, or have any sort of illicit sex such as adultery, incest, or homosexuality. You should not cause animals needless suffering, even though you are permitted to slaughter them for beneficial reasons such as for food, clothing, or medical reasons, such as testing drugs that would pose a danger to on humans. You should establish courts of justice in your society, to make sure the Seven Laws are followed.

## What the Noahide Code is Not

---

The Noahide Code is not a religion. You do not have to keep a Sabbath, or pray certain prayers at certain times of the day. You are not required to keep any festivals or holidays. There is no special commandment to dress in a particular way, as long as it is modest and appropriate. You are not required to attend any sort of public worship, such as a church or synagogue. As long as you keep the Seven Laws properly, you do not have to observe any extra “religious” teachings from anyone, be he a Jew or Noahide.

---

The Seven Laws of Noah are the bare minimum of what G-d expects of mankind!

But you can do more! The Noahide Code is about correct actions, not correct theology. Study the Torah, which is the Hebrew word for the first five books of Scripture: **Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.**

Studying the Torah will give you an idea of how one can go beyond the letter of the law, the bare minimum of the Seven Commandments. The Noahide Code is not only about self-improvement, but helping others.

HOW DOES  
ONE  
BECOME A  
NOAHIDE?

You don't have to “convert” to be a Noahide — you are already a Noahide! Every person on earth is a *B'nai Noah*, that is, a descendant of Noah. Therefore, you are either an observant Noahide, or a non-observant Noahide. All you have to do in order to be an observant Noahide is to keep the part of the Torah that G-d gave to mankind, the moral and legal code known as the

## Seven Laws of Noah.

© 2006 Alan W. Cecil