

# Extremely Reformed Judaism

Draft 2

## Introduction

This started as a drunken creative-writing exercise; if a science fiction writer can write a successful cult, why can't an imagineer write a religion? I had some fun thinking of what commandments and stuff I would like if more people followed, then went to sleep. The next morning I read what I'd written and realised that my own personal beliefs can be classified under Australian law as a religion. Maybe some of my wisdom could help others not make the same mistakes I have. While writing for pure enjoyment of the art is noble, I prefer to write with a goal in mind to motivate me. Why not aim high? Why not try to kickstart the Messianic Age in our lifetime?

As of 2020, the year COVID-19 united the world against a microscopic common enemy, a little over 56% of people on or around Planet Earth already follow religions that specifically claim to want this. Judaism, Islam, and all the many forms of Christianity include the concept of a golden age of world peace. I don't personally know much about non-Abrahamic religions, but I'd be surprised if there aren't equivalent ideas. This document aims to be compatible with existing faiths as well as a lack of faith entirely, as long as you believe deep down that nobody wants a war outside of works of fiction. As fun as it is to shoot a "bad guy" in a video game, in real life that person has a head full of unique thoughts and other people who care about them no matter what side they are on. If you think there's nobody in the world that cares about you, then I care about you.

A friend of mine once said "I saw a shooting star and I wished for world peace", let's make that wish come true.

## Top 10 List of Commandments

People like having guidelines for how to live their lives, people also like to read top 10 lists on the Internet. Take them or leave them, but I'd prefer the former. I have tried to stick to the spirit of the classic "ten commandments" but update them to 21st Century values.

Old School	New Hotness
I am the Lord thy God	Be excellent to each other
Thou shalt have no other gods before me	Respect everyone's right to believe in as many or as few gods as they like
Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image	Express your creativity however you like, but consider how it may affect others
Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain	Do not use profanity to hurt others
Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy	Take at least one day a week off work and do something you enjoy
Honour thy father and thy mother	Try to make the people who care about you proud
Thou shalt not murder	Thou shalt not murder
Thou shalt not commit adultery	Share love with as many or as few consenting adults as those adults are comfortable with
Thou shalt not steal	Ask to borrow something if you want it and do not have your own
Thou shalt not covet [..]	Don't be jealous of what others have, they have their own problems too

## How to Join

Just like any relationship or job, maybe it isn't official until it is "Facebook official". Facebook currently allows you to type whatever you want under "Religious views", mine currently says "St Looney up the cream bun and jam" in reference to a Monty Python skit about disturbing people. Just copy and paste whatever dumb name I've called this document into your Facebook profile. Done. Welcome. Go be a good person.

Don't want to use Facebook? You can get pretty much anything you want printed on a card or a t-shirt. What is in your metaphorical heart is what counts.

Want to do a ceremony? Sure, any adult can do a b'nai mitzvah. Before anyone starts trying to limit what counts I'm going to lay down the ground rules as I would like them. First and foremost, have a party where people can give you gifts if they want, and never throw out any of those gifts. They will bring you joy eventually. Secondly, at least one person present should be a teacher who has had an impact on your life by what they have taught you. Lastly, and most importantly, retell someone else's story you have read, watched, or listened to more than once. Follow with a personal analysis of what you have learnt from that story and how you hope being familiar with it will impact your life. It is ok to be nervous, everyone is the first time they have to speak to an audience.

I learnt two lessons from mine; firstly, talking snakes are not medical practitioners so ignore their dietary advice; secondly, those who think they know more than you may tell lies to try to manipulate your behaviour. I didn't like the "Lord" character in that story.

Want to be a Rabbi yourself? Just start calling yourself one, it is not a legally protected title like "Medical Practitioner" so there is nothing stopping you. The first line of the Wikipedia article defines a Rabbi as a spiritual leader or religious teacher, so if that applies to you then politely tell anyone who argues that they are mistaken.

## Religious Holidays

Celebrate when you feel you need to celebrate, mourn when you feel you need to mourn. If you are combining with an existing religion, start with those. If you want some fun suggestions, here's some of my favourites:

### Shabbat/Sabbath

Traditionally the 24 hours after work finishes on a Friday, essentially the ancient version of TGIF. You have gotta get down on Friday, and this Friday night, do it all again. If you're in a 9-5 Monday-Friday work schedule like me, this is a good time to start your weekly day off work I mentioned. Chores can wait until Sunday, relax, maybe catch up with some friends and family.

Alternatively, get anything that needs doing done on Saturday and use Sunday to chill out ready for the next week to start. If you work a different schedule, have your sabbath some other time, the important part is to chill out and have time to yourself.

### Day of the Dead

Celebrate the lives of those that are no longer with us. They are never truly gone if stories are told about them.

### Yom Kippur

Spend a day thinking about your mistakes over the last year, and forgive yourself for them afterwards by trying to be a better person the next year.

### Christmas and Hanukkah

It doesn't matter what you call it, once a year get your family together and give each other gifts.

### Passover and Easter


A proper "Passover seder" is basically a drinking game with family and close friends. I found a guide on how to celebrate that used the word "wine" 17 times on 17 pages. The last supper from Easter was literally a baker's dozen of blokes drinking wine until one of their mates thought it had gotten out of hand and called the cops.

## Nice Ideas

Here, in no particular order, are some assorted thoughts and opinions related to how I try to live my life, even though I definitely fail to follow my own advice so frequently:

- Existence of God is a doozy, but remember number 2 on the list, personally I don't entirely dismiss the idea of a higher power. I'm going to go with "God and the Universe are the same thing, God exists at all the infinite points in space and time, observing the cosmic background microwave radiation from the Big Bang is technically God taking a selfie."
- Cats are awesome. So are all other animals, even humans, just be careful around dolphins.
- Don't overuse recreational substances. Nobody is ever going to stop young people trying drugs, but don't lose control and always practice harm minimisation. If you get addicted, seek help and find another outlet. Do not be a burden on your friends because you have a problem.
- In general, ask for help when you need it.
- Think of everyone as your friend until proven otherwise, rather than the reverse. Once you get to know them, they might turn into a good friend.
- Be honest. A truth someone doesn't want to hear is better than a lie in the long term. Especially be honest with yourself.
- Don't treat others the way you'd like to be treated unless you actually like yourself, treat them better.
- I am in favour of universal basic income and letting people do whatever work makes them happiest. Like to paint? Go paint! You shouldn't have to waste your time dealing with Centrelink and debt. If you want extra money and nice things, find someone who will pay you for something you can do, but nobody should be forced to do something they hate just to stay alive.
- Internet access has become a basic utility.
- Don't bother trying to read The Bible, it is poorly written but contains some good stories. Much like Tolkien in that way. The lessons and stories contained within are better learnt from a movie or cartoon.

- Before anyone gets any ideas about actually following me and my nonsense, other than on Twitter, go buy a gourd. They're only an estimated 69 cents from Coles and they don't haggle. Remember the words of Terry Jones dressed as a mother, because mine isn't around anymore to keep me in line.



Coles Gourds

**\$0.69**

Approx. 140g | \$4.90 per 1Kg

ⓘ Price is an estimate

Add 1 for \$0.69 ▼