



[Joy in Loving the Stranger](#)

Wayne Braudrick

[Life Change: We love the stranger as ourselves](#)

Leviticus 19

May 12, 2024

Walking through Milano with 4 blond children...

Who are the ger?

Lev 19:33-34

The word ger (here rendered “alien”) occurs 92 times in the Hebrew Bible...and refers not to all foreigners, but only to one who has settled in the land for some time and has special legal status as a resident alien. Leviticus repeatedly commands that the גר be treated like the native born, even though he is still different. In this case, the command to “love him” is identical to the earlier command to love one’s neighbor.

– John J. Collins, *“Love Your Neighbor: How it Became the Golden Rule”*

How does God say to act toward the ger?

Lev 19:34

This verse does not ground the command in ontology, in the creation of all human beings in the image of God. If it did, there would be no reason to distinguish between the ger and other kinds of foreigners. It is grounded in analogous experience and calls to mind the Golden Rule: one should treat others as one would wish to be treated oneself. – Collins

How should one show love to citizens (and ger)?

19:9-18

Put aside special gifts for people in need

Do not steal

Practice no fraud

Use no personally advantageous financing or payment schemes

Value the disabled

Show no preferential treatment

No spreading slander

Refuse to do unsafe stunts

Hold no hatred, revenge or grudges

Speak truth in love

Apply it to our lives:

We cannot find joy in loving strangers without seeing where we lack love

We must take steps to replace our weakness with health

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Upcoming
Events



Give



Connect Card
&
Prayer Request



FINDING JOY IN LOVING PEOPLE

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE



courtesy wantedinmilan



courtesy dreamofitaly

**How dare you
put such a strain
on the economy!**



**Go back to
Germany where
you're from!**



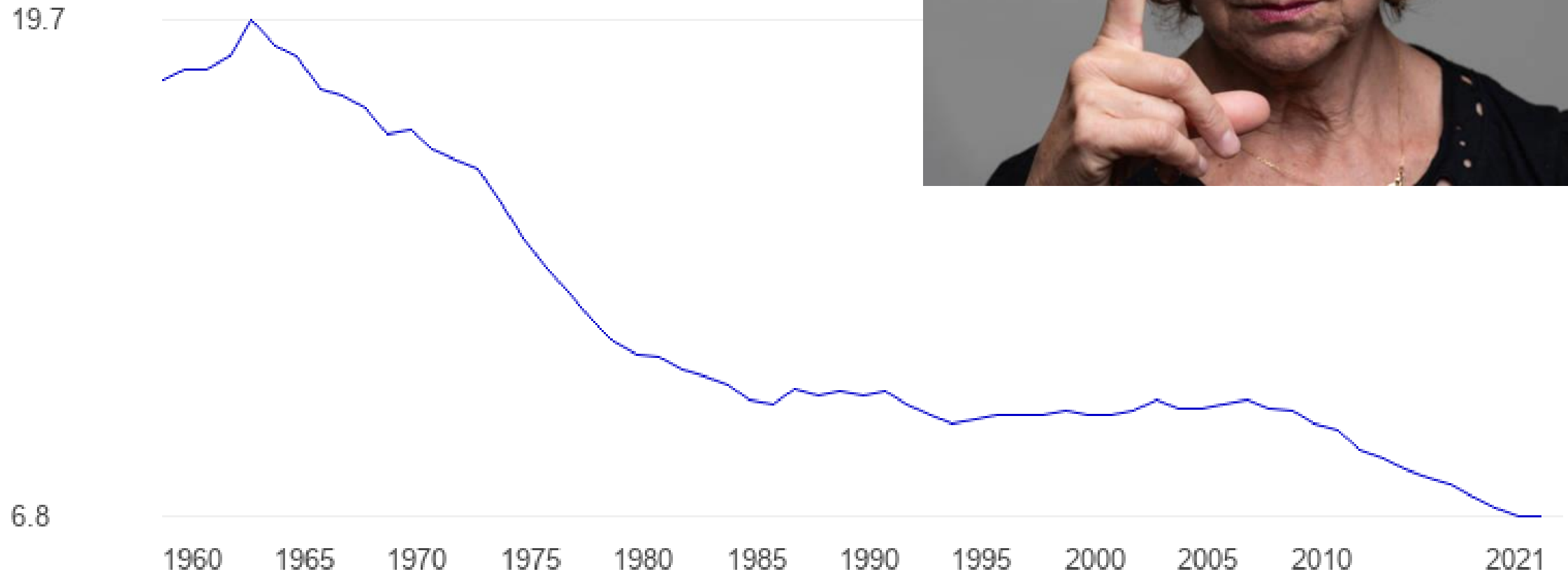
Italian births per 1000 people = 6.8

Italian deaths per 1000 people = 12.0



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³³ “When an alien resides with you in your land, you must not oppress him. ³⁴ You will regard the alien who resides with you as the native-born among you. You are to love him as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord [YHWH] your God.”

Leviticus 19 CSB

Hebrew: גֵר ger = stranger; legal alien who chooses to live with Israel lawfully; ger could become a citizen

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Leviticus 19 CSB

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The *ger* are exactly like my missionary friends in Milano. They were legal aliens, paying all the taxes demanded of Italian citizens. They owned property, put down roots, and spoke Italian.

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Leviticus 19 CSB

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Leviticus 19 CSB

Only love the one who is much like you?

38
Athens



FIELD, MASS., TUESDAY, MAY 27, 1924—TWENTY PAGES

MELLON SAYS TAX BILL IMPROVEMENT ON PRESENT LAW

Measure Sent to President
by Big House Vote to Get
Early Action

POSITION INDICATES VETO LESS LIKELY

Only Nine Republicans
Against in Count of Lower
House — Enough to Pay
Bonus Provided, Green
Says

Washington, May 26—The tax re-
vision bill was put up to President
Coolidge for final enactment into law
by Congress. Like the

PRESIDENT SIGNS IMMIGRATION BILL WITH RELUCTANCE

Approves Main Quota Pro-
visions and Says Applica-
tion of Law Needed

EXCLUSION CLAUSE MEETS DISFAVOR

Method of Handling Jap-
anese Question Deplored
in Executive Statement—
Hughes in Full Accord

Washington, May 26 — President
Coolidge, while deploring its provision
for Japanese exclusion, but heartily
approving its main features, today
signed the

LODGE FOR C FOR

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Is 93 to
City*

Will Shift to Rea
tory Terms— R

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Leviticus 19 CSB

Only love the one who is much like you?

Since the *ger* by definition is not an Israelite, *kamokha* [as yourself] here cannot have an adjectival force (the alien who is like you). The reason given for the command to love the alien is “for you were aliens in the land of Egypt,” (Exod 22:20; 23:9; Deut 10:19; 23:8). *Kamokha* then—here and in verse 18—is adverbial, which is to say that it clarifies how one should love. This verse does not ground the command in ontology, in the creation of all human beings in the image of God. If it did, there would be no reason to distinguish between the *ger* and other kinds of foreigners. It is grounded in analogous experience and calls to mind the Golden Rule: one should treat others as one would wish to be treated oneself. – John J. Collins, “Love Your Neighbor: How it Became the Golden Rule”

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Leviticus 19 CSB

Two great mistakes keep us from finding joy in loving strangers:

- **Assume they must be like us in order to be loved.**
- **Pretend there is no difference between peoples.**

**And just how
should one show
the love to the
fellow citizens?**



courtesy milanomensstyles

⁹ When you reap the harvest of your land, you are not to reap to the very edge of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰ Do not strip your vineyard bare or gather its fallen grapes. Leave them for the poor and the resident alien; I am the LORD your God.

¹¹ Do not steal. Do not act deceptively or lie to one another.

¹² Do not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God; I am the LORD.

¹³ Do not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages due a hired worker must not remain with you until morning.

Leviticus 19 CSB

¹⁴ Do not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind, but you are to fear your God; I am the LORD. ¹⁵ Do not act unjustly when deciding a case. Do not be partial to the poor or give preference to the rich; judge your neighbor fairly. ¹⁶ Do not go about spreading slander among your people; do not jeopardize your neighbor's life; I am the LORD. ¹⁷ Do not harbor hatred against your brother. Rebuke your neighbor directly, and you will not incur guilt because of him. ¹⁸ Do not take revenge or bear a grudge against members of your community, but love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.

Leviticus 19 CSB

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Leviticus 19 CSB

#1 – Put aside special gifts for people in need.



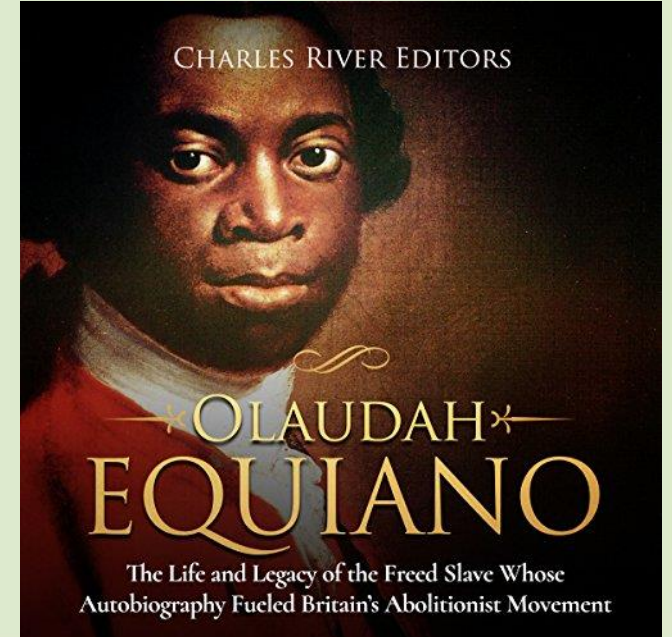
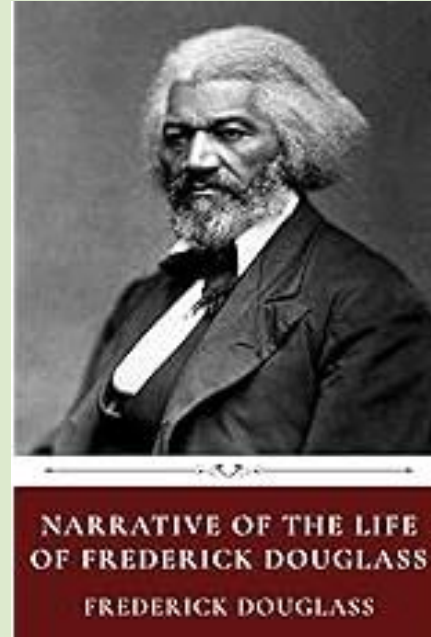
Ruth Gleaning
James Tissot, 1895

11 Do not steal.

Leviticus 19 CSB

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#2 – Do not steal.



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Leviticus 19 CSB

#1 – Put aside special gifts for people in need.

#2 – Do not steal.

#3 – Practice no fraud.



courtesy Columbia

This now-dustbin-on-wheels belonged to my 19-year-old son, who now has a new car. I can only apologise for the state of it, the passenger side has a large dent on it where my son tried to climb the corner of my house...The clutch is now slipping but he did not know this, as loud music [kept him] from hearing it. He just wondered why it took him longer to get up a hill!!!

Surprisingly the electric windows still work well, considering the amount of times they go up and down calling to his mates, and banter with the passing girls...



13 Do not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages due a hired worker must not remain with you until morning.

Leviticus 19 CSB

#1 – Put aside special gifts for people in need.

#2 – Do not steal.

#3 – Practice no fraud.

#4 – Use no personally advantageous financing or payment schemes.

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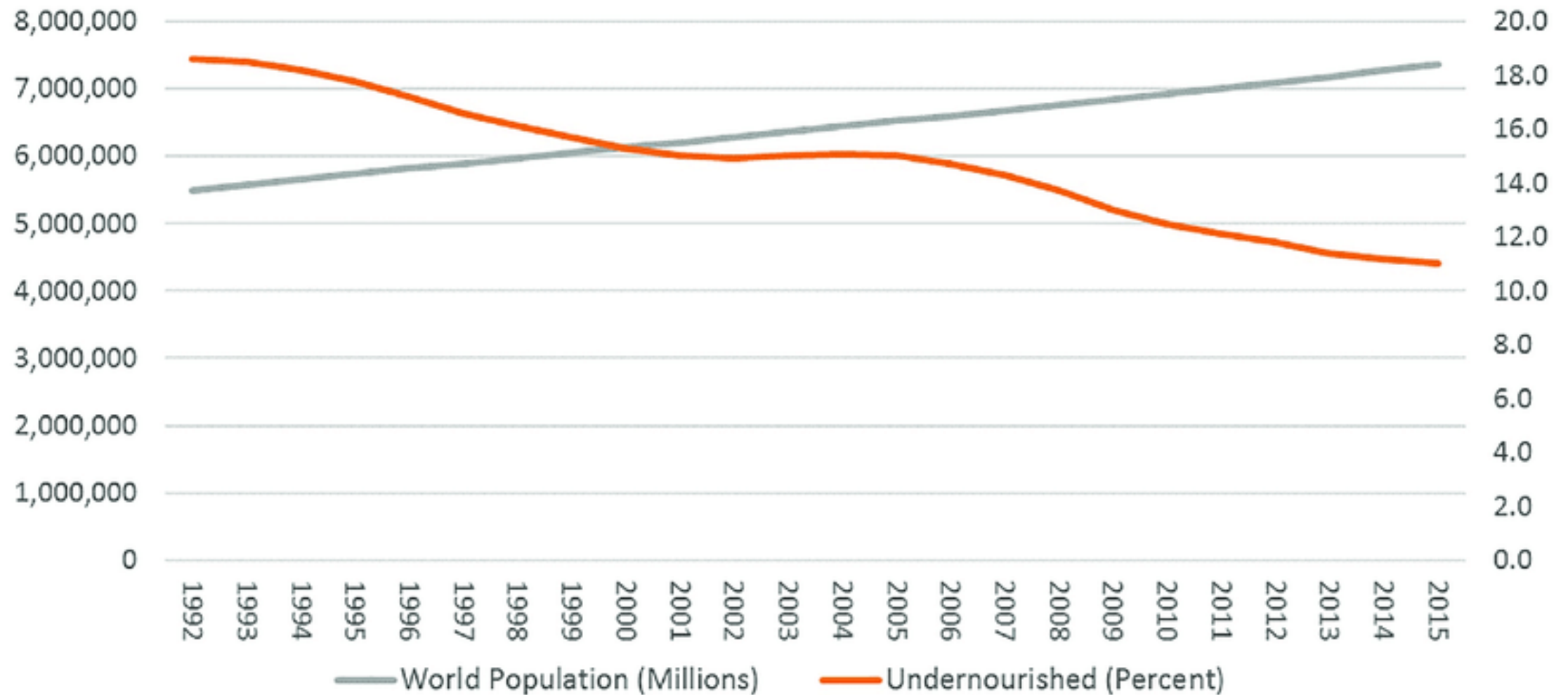
Leviticus 19 CSB



...e in need.

#4 – Use no personally advantageous financing or payment schemes.

World Population & Hunger 1992-2015



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Leviticus 19 CSB

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Today, this is seen in things like payday loans, high interest rates, and inflation fueled by governments printing too much money & devaluing currency.

14 Do not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind, but you are to fear your God; I am the LORD.

Leviticus 19 CSB

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#5 – Value the disabled.

**Tangled among creeping vines
Mangled within sleeping minds
Dreaming endless possibilities
Seeming senseless inabilities
Confusion sweeps the pallid facade
Aside and awry, left in the lurch
A second's eternity, in the eyes of God
Faithful yet faceless as crows perch
– Mike Braudrick, “Confusion and Sorrow”**



14 Do not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind, but you are to fear your God; I am the LORD.

Leviticus 19 CSB



Hebrew: ללל qll = make light of something or someone; to slight; linguistic opposite of kbd which describes making something or someone heavy, as in loading them with honor and gravitas

14 Do not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind, but you are to fear your God; I am the LORD.

Leviticus 19 CSB

Hebrew: קלל qll = make light of something or someone; to slight; linguistic opposite of kbd which describes making something or someone heavy, as in loading them with honor and gravitas

3 I will bless those who bless you, I will curse anyone who treats you with contempt, and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

Genesis 12 CSB

- They are not disabled because of “karma.” John 9:1-3.
- It is not a curse. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.
- Disability is not purposeless. 2 Cor. 12:7-10.

Jesus chose to flash His credentials as Messiah through ministry to disabled people, possibly because a disability magnifies God’s grace. From our wheelchairs we get to prove how great and how trustworthy God is. – Joni Eareckson Tada, conversation with WB



God's word re: the disabled

- **They are not disabled because of "karma." John 9:1-3.**
- **It is not a curse. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.**
- **Disability is not purposeless. 2 Cor. 12:7-10.**
- **Their value is intrinsic. Matthew 10:30.**
- **As appropriate, they should be touched. Matthew 8:1-3.**
- **As able, they should be involved. Romans 12:3-8.**
- **Do not lie about being disabled. Malachi 3:5.**

I'm not really disabled;
just gaming the system.



⁵ “I will come to you in judgment, and I will be ready to witness against sorcerers and adulterers; against those who swear falsely; against those who oppress the hired worker, the widow, and the fatherless; and against those who deny justice to the resident alien. They do not fear me,” says the LORD of Armies.

Malachi 3 CSB

15 Do not act unjustly when deciding a case. Do not be partial to the poor or give preference to the rich; judge your neighbor fairly.

Leviticus 19 CSB

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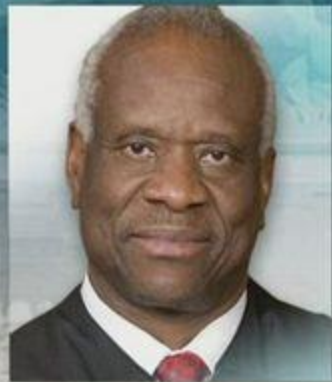
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#6 – Show no partiality to poor or wealthy.

He reasoned that it was bad for us, because he knew we'd get preferential treatment because of white guilt. He also said it was bad for society because preferential treatment destroys integrated community.

	RACE
	White
	American Indian
	Alaska Native
	Asian
	Black or African American
	Native Hawaiian
	Other Pacific Islander
	White
	Declined to provide

LIVE



RACE IN COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS

**SUPREME
COURT**

Oral Argument

Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard College

C-SPAN

16 Do not go about spreading slander among your people

Leviticus 19 CSB

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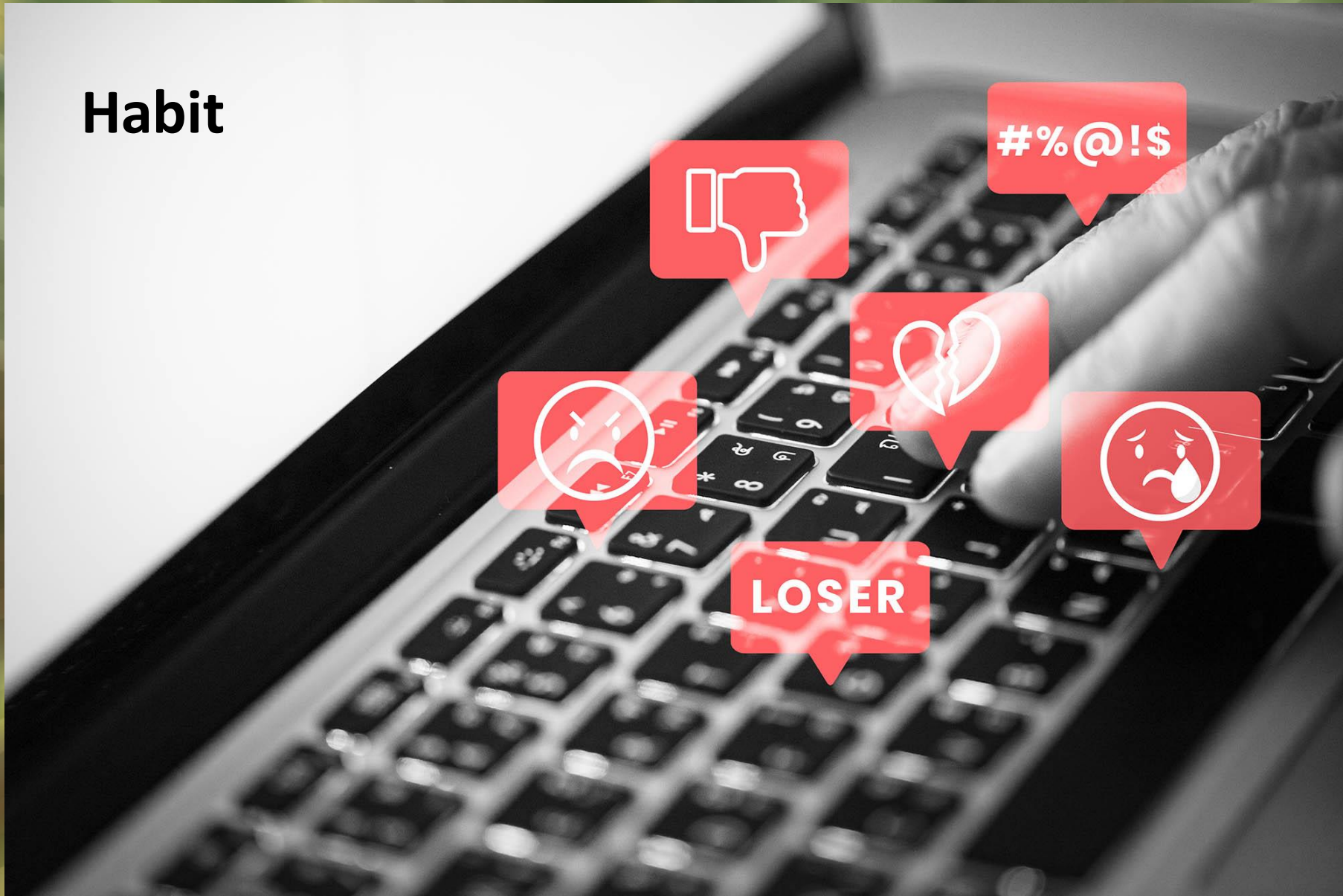
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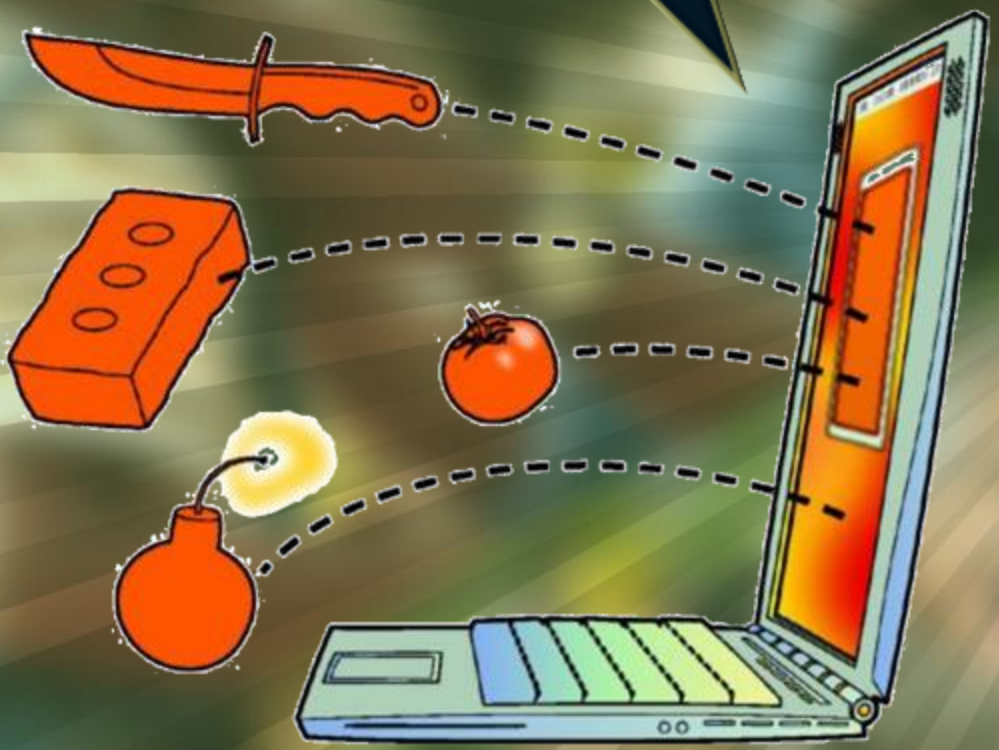


A graphic with a black background and a red diagonal stripe. At the top left, the words "DOMINION VOTING" are written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters. To the right of this text is a large red logo consisting of a downward-pointing chevron shape with a smaller, inverted chevron inside it. Below the "DOMINION VOTING" text is the Fox News Channel logo, which features a blue square with white diagonal lines and the words "FOX NEWS" in white, with "channel" in a smaller font below it. To the right of the Fox News logo, the text "\$787 million settlement" is written in large, white, sans-serif font. In the bottom right corner, the letters "MGN" are written in a small, white, sans-serif font. On the far right edge, there is a small vertical line of text: "Dominion Voting Systems Corp. • Fox Corporation".

Habit



How dare you use that example!



DOMINION VOTING



FOX NEWS channel

\$787 million settlement

Dominion Voting Systems Corp. • Fox Corporation

16 do not jeopardize your neighbor's life; I am the LORD.

Leviticus 19 CSB

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17 Do not harbor hatred against your brother...¹⁸ Do not take revenge or bear a grudge against members of your community

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January 28, 1937 City Council meeting Lodz, Poland (city of 700,000)

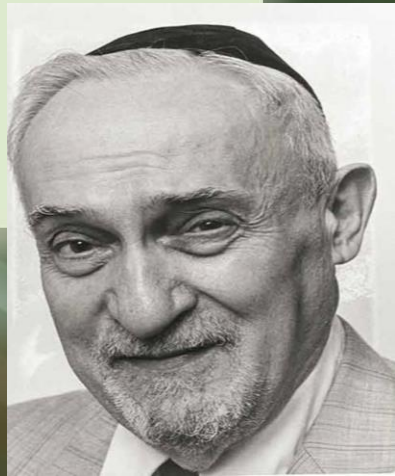
Dr. Isaac Lewin, Councilman: [There are] terrible things happening on the streets of Lodz. [a 23 year-old Jew had been stabbed to death that day.]

Councilman Kowalski: Bravo, bravo!

“noise in the hall.”

Councilman Czernik: I am ready to kill hundreds of you in one hour.

Council President: Order. Order!



January 28, 1937 City Council meeting Lodz, Poland (city of 700,000)

Councilman Lewin: The City Council should appeal to the citizens that peace be restored. The City Council should teach the population the lesson of peace and call upon all inhabitants to live in peace.

Councilman Schweidler: In Palestine, you can speak of peace!

Councilman Lewin: We are proud of Palestine, and you do not have the right to tell us what we should do in Palestine.

Councilman Kowalski [pounding his desk]: Go to Palestine!

Is today's "Go to Poland" truly different from the "Go to Palestine" abusively hurled at my father? Czernik's sadistic 1937 dream of killing hundreds of Jews in one hour was realized with the Holocaust and repeated with the Oct. 7 massacre. But the sliver of land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea that my father's Jew-hating colleagues then called "Palestine" is very different today. Israel preserves the rights of all residents, whether or not they are Jewish, against vicious assaults. The embattled democracy seeks only—as my father urged—to live in peace. – Nathan Lewin, "Go Back to Poland"

17 Do not harbor hatred against your brother. Rebuke your neighbor directly, and you will not incur guilt because of him.

18 Do not take revenge or bear a grudge against members of your community, but love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.

Leviticus 19 CSB

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courtesy D Magazine

You come do my house now.



Sorry, I have hurry to another.



You come do my house now.

Sorry, I have hurry to another.



Why? I am the important one, and you should serve me, now.



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Leviticus 19 CSB

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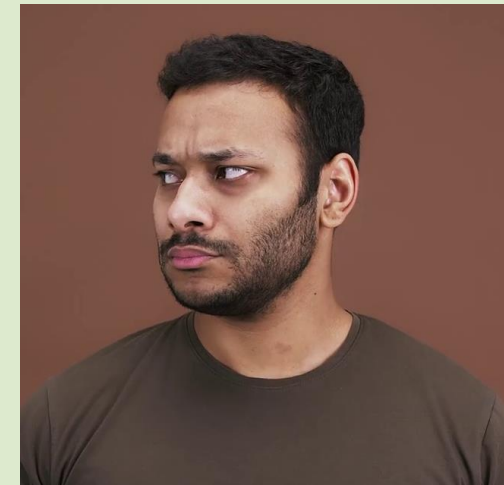
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**The only thing I
dislike about
Frisco are all the
Indians.**

Leviticus 19 CSB

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Leviticus 19 CSB

God is God.

I don't need to settle every problem or change the world.

**I just need to obey the one who is actually in charge. Then,
grudges begin to dissipate, and preferential treatment becomes
absurd.**

18 love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord.

Leviticus 19 CSB

Hebrew: יהוה YHWH = the covenant name God grants in relationship with humans



FINDING JOY IN LOVING PEOPLE