

You Shall Not Confession

Our lives are full of unwritten rules but there are also social conventions that say when rules don't apply or may be made to bend a little.

You shall not speed when driving in your car
at least, not through speed cameras or certain traffic lights

You shall not speak to anyone in a lift
unless of course it breaks down and the usual etiquette doesn't apply

You shall not let anyone go before you in the supermarket
unless they only have two items and you are in a good mood

You shall not answer your mobile phone at the cinema
but texting is fine although deeply irritating to the person behind you

You shall not listen to your music in the quiet carriage of a train
but constantly getting up to make business calls in the corridor is fine.

Rule Giving God

So often we follow the letter of your law
but miss the spirit of what lies behind it
so often we justify our actions in the name of justice
but fail to do what is just
so often we speak in judgement
and forget to temper it with mercy

Rule Breaking God

Help us to discern when laws are for keeping
and when justice and mercy require them to be broken
Help us not to get caught up in the minute detail of what is required
but to see the bigger picture
Help us to follow not only the letter of your law
but the spirit of love that lies behind it.

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