

## SOCIAL LAWS; SOCIAL RULES; AND MORAL RULES

Social laws, i.e. the laws a community satisfies, are inescapable: they cannot be violated and they need not be enforced. If they fail to operate the community disintegrates or becomes a different sort of soc.

Social rules can be broken and replaced, but in any case they are <sup>binding</sup> ~~imperative~~: every member of a community is supposed to abide by them, failing which he is punished.

Moral rules, on the other hand, are optional. An authoritarian moral code is a contradiction in terms. If there is no choice then the act is either reflex or under compulsion, hence it carries no merit.

A moral rule is such that its implementation is good and its neglect is bad. ~~The implementation of a social rule has no moral weight.~~

The difference is between must and ought.

Waddington's The Ethical Animal misses this point by centering ethics in authority and respect.

Moral rules supplement social rules. A good moral code is one that fits in with a social code and keeps a good society going. (An efficient moral code on the other hand ~~is~~ need not contribute to keeping a good society: it may be the Mafia's code.)

Moral codes are rooted to life and society but they are not purely biological patterns, if only because they involve ~~goodness and badness~~, right and wrong,