

## DUTIES & OBLIGATIONS

The law speaks of obligations, whereas morality speaks of duties.

Thus in the Southern US before the <sup>Civil W</sup> secession war, it was obligatory for a slave to do whatever his master ordered him. At the same time the abolitionists regarded this rule as immoral, hence they absolved the ~~slave~~ who run away from his master: although the slave had an obligation, he had no duty to remain enslaved. Likewise, we all have the duty to support our parents in their old age, but many do not feel this to be an obligation.

Obligations and duties are behaviorally indistinguishable. I.e., the mere observation of the behavior of a person is insufficient to determine whether he acts under obligation or out of duty.

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