

CONFUCIANISM. Confucianism is a tradition, a philosophy, a humanistic or rationalistic religion, a system of governing ... or simply a way of life. Confucius (551 BC - 479 BC) was a Chinese teacher, editor of Chinese classic texts (including the Five Classics), a politician and a philosopher. Confucius' philosophy emphasized personal and governmental morality, correctness of societal and individual relationships, justice and sincerity. Confucius' moral teachings stress the application of skilled judgment, rather than knowledge of rules. Confucian ethics are deemed virtue ethics. Confucius said: Wisdom can be gained through three methods: Reflection, the noblest. Imitation, the easiest. Experience, the hardest.



Confucius was one of the earliest sages to formulate the universal Golden Rule: 'Do to others as you want done to yourself.'

Confucius taught its negative form too, referred to as the Silver Rule: 'What you do not wish for yourself, do not do to others.'

He also taught the rule of Mutual Reciprocal Respect: 'If you want freedom & prosperity, give others freedom & prosperity.'

Confucianism holds humans are fundamentally good, teachable and improvable through personal and communal endeavor.

Confucianism espouses the concept of 'the secular as sacred'. Hence it deems the ordinary activities of human life to be sacred.

vir-tue eth-ics

Virtue ethics emphasize character over obedience; i.e. to do what is right, rather than what is required by rules or the law.

see also ETHICS

FREE & PROSPEROUS

MORAL LAW, PACIFISM III

see also my blog 798 (Foreword) page XII

The Chinese businessman Jack Ma, founder of Alibaba, says: "The philosophy of balancing is similar to the management of a company; I obtain management from Confucianism, leadership from Taoism and how to live a normal life from Buddhism."