

**RUSSELL.** Bertrand Russell (1872 - 1970) was a British writer, philosopher, anti-war activist and populariser of philosophy. **R**ussell strove to rid philosophy of meaningless assertions; he sought precision in argument by the use of exact language. **R**ussell saw logic and science as the tools of philosophy; he believed one task of the philosopher is to remove confusion.

*Ten alternative Commandments, after Russell ...*

1. *Do not be absolutely certain of anything*
2. *Don't proceed while concealing evidence, the facts or the truth*
3. *Never try to discourage thinking, for you are sure to succeed*
4. *On meeting with opposition, overcome it by argument, not authority*
5. *Have no respect for the authority of others*
6. *Don't use power to suppress opinions you deem dangerous*
7. *Do not fear to be eccentric with your opinions*
8. *Engage in intelligent dissent rather than in vacuous agreement*
9. *Be scrupulously truthful, even if the truth is inconvenient or hurtful*
10. *Don't be envious of the happiness of those who live in a fool's paradise*

*Russell, winner of the 1950 Literature Nobel Prize, said three passions - simple but overwhelmingly strong - governed his life:*

*The longing for love  
The search for knowledge  
The unbearable pity for the suffering of man  
The latter is the notion that motivated the Buddha to pursue his search for a path to nirvana ... a state free from suffering.*

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## **THE RUSSELL / EINSTEIN PEACE MANIFESTO.**

The week that Albert Einstein died (in 1955) he endorsed with Bertrand Russell a declaration calling - in the name of science and common sense - for the renunciation of war in an age in which nuclear weapons are threatening 'the continued existence of mankind'. The declaration concluded with a draft resolution: "In view of the fact that in any future world war nuclear weapons will be employed and that such weapons threaten the existence of mankind, we urge the governments of the world to acknowledge that their purposes cannot be furthered by a world war and we urge them, consequently, to find peaceful means for the settlement of all matters in dispute between them."

*see also* UNITED NATIONS