

Many times it is very difficult to figure out how the people who manage you come up with such odd rules. The conventional wisdom in the working ranks is that you are in great danger if you do understand it all (you are becoming one of “them”). Let me illustrate just one example of this, though if you read Scott Adam’s Dilbert cartoon, you will have seen hundreds of them.

I worked for years in a building that was located on an Air Force Base. The building was pretty old, but still very serviceable. It was a bit like an old car – you had to spend a little maintenance money on it, but you could keep it running much cheaper than buying a new one.

Well, the word came down from above that this building was marked for destruction. The reason given was that the maintenance costs were too high. Naturally, we all made mental comparisons of the yearly cost of keeping this building up with the cost of moving seventy or so people (and the difficulty of finding places for them), moving all of the needed equipment to storage locations, and actually destroying the building, which is currently still going on.

As it turns out, the real driver for this was that someone even higher in government circles decided to put a limit the total number of buildings the Air Force could have. So, some of them just had to go so that other buildings could be built. Our office home was just one of the unlucky ones.

This type of thing is pretty frustrating, and when it happens to us we end up feeling like pawns that have little or no importance to the effort. Dictums frequently come down that make just as little sense to us, but are given for other reasons that we many times never find out.

I contrast this, though, to the way God does things. When you think of the Ten Commandments in the Old Testament, or the two greatest commandments in the New Testament, you have to realize that there is no hidden agenda. God is not playing with us, or trying to meet some cosmic requirement that we cannot understand. He is trying to give us the best life on earth that we can have, and lead us to a much better one later. He is trying to show us what True Good is all about, and He wants us to treat each other in a way that not only minimizes hurt and pain, but maximizes joy. It is really all about us, though He also wants us to worship Him (and indeed this should be a natural response).

The thing that we have to watch out for is the addition of “management rules” by people. We tend to twist things around for reasons that don’t blend in with the true purpose of God. We end up only disturbing the peace that our Creator intended for us.

The good news, in light of the story just told, is that we have a office building (mansion) prepared for us that will never be condemned or destroyed. We won’t be told that we have to find another place to go. He will keep us in an eternal relationship for ever. That kind of management really rules!