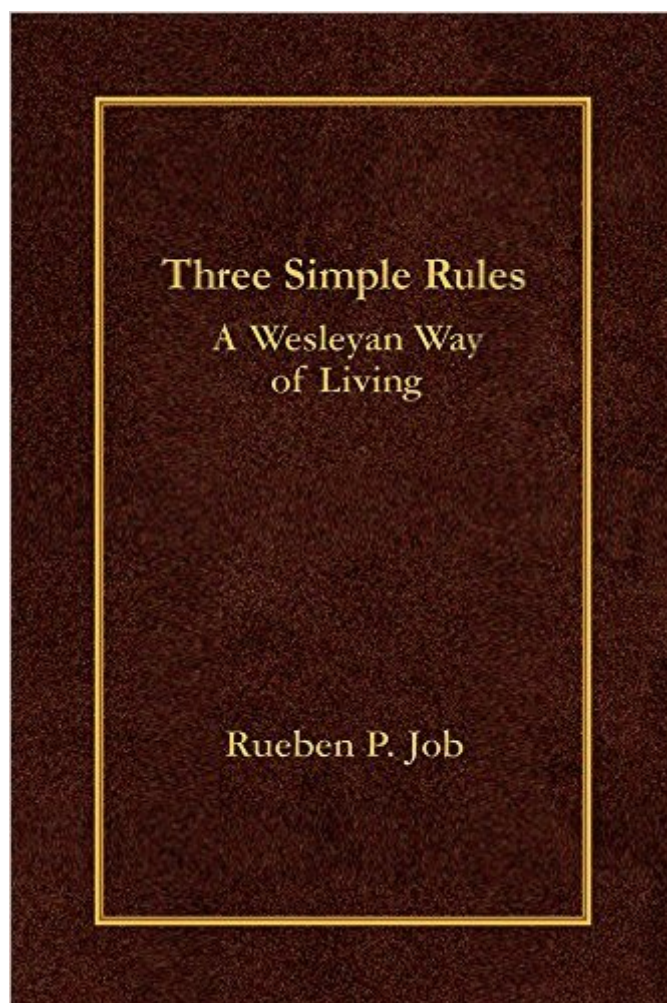


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# Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way Of Living



## Synopsis

In *Three Simple Rules*, Rueben Job offers an interpretation of John Wesley's General Rules for today's readers. For individual reading or group study, this insightful work calls us to mutual respect, unity and a deeper daily relationship with God. This simple but challenging look at three commands, "do no harm, do good, stay in love with God." "Every year I review the three general rules of the United Methodist Church with those who are being ordained. Now I have a wonderful ordination gift to give them in Bishop Job's, *Three Simple Rules*, to start and deepen the conversation as they enter a new relationship with the church. Bishop Job has described "attending upon all the ordinances of God" to be to "stay in love with God." It's a fresh language that speaks especially to long-time Christians and United Methodists. Sally Dyck, Resident Bishop, Minnesota Area "Three Simple Rules is a new catechism for everyone wanting to follow Jesus Christ. These practices for holy living should replace the membership vows in every church! Don't let the title fool you. Bishop Job writes, "The rules are simple, but the way is not easy. Only those with great courage will attempt it, and only those with great faith will be able to walk this exciting and demanding way." John Hopkins, Resident Bishop, East Ohio Area

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a wonderful little hardcover volume which, if implemented, will revolutionize your life. John Wesley espoused three simple rules: Do No Harm, Do Good, and Stay in Love with God. Though

these rules sound amazingly simple - and they are - yet to actually practice them may indeed be the hardest thing you've ever done. This small book shows how difficult the instructions of Jesus (and Wesley) can be in real life, and yet how rewarding they can also be both in this life and in the life to come, if we simply take them to heart. The main point is to stay in love with God. If we do this, the rest will follow. As Bishop Job says, "Holy living will not be discovered, achieved, continued, and sustained without staying in love with God. And while staying in love with God involves prayer worship, study, and the Lord's Supper, it also involves feeding the lambs, tending the sheep, and providing for the needs of others (John 21:15-16). Feeding the lambs and tending the sheep are the signs of love that we exchange with God. And they are signs of the love that the world can understand. Spiritual disciplines not only include practices that bind us to God every day but they also include actions that heal the pain, injustice, and inequality of our world. It is impossible to stay in love with God and not desire to see God's goodness and grace shared with the entire world." (p. 58). This inexpensive little volume, taken seriously by the Church of Jesus, could well ignite a holy reality that burns hot with the fire of God in our day.

Retired United Methodist Bishop Rueben Job's "Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living" (2007, 77-page pocket sized hardback) is a handy quick read commentary for John Wesley's General Rules. This small book suggests to believers the profound nature of boldly loving God. Indeed, the good bishop is determined that his readers return love for love, in Jesus Christ. Along with Wesley, Job begins with Deuteronomy 6:5 and Mark 12:29-31 as the biblical warrants for Christian love. We believers are to love God and others unconditionally! This book reminds that there are no other rules for Christians as important. In three chapters (on doing no harm, on doing good, and on loving God) and one appendix (litanies for the use of prayer in drawing oneself closer to God) pastor Job offers a daily guide that encourages and matures the Christian walk. This is a Wesleyan spiritualist's self-help. The downside of this great little book is its dearth of stories and illustrations for making the good bishop's points. One wishes for more narrative from Job's long and accomplished career as he speaks for Wesley's rules. A few stories would have barely increased the length of this book while broadened its scope (helping, perhaps, to make the General Rules more preachable and shareable). Narrative scarcity, here, prevents more stars. This book is recommended to all new to Wesley's General Rules, novice Christians, Christian spiritualists, seminarians, and Christians-in-training.

Several small groups in my church are using this little book, augmenting the book with the DVD in

which Bishop Job talks about the three simple rules--Do no harm, Do Good, and Stay in Love with God. We are buying it by the boxful and hope to use it as a starting place in building a congregation that practices the faith in a more deliberate way.

Bishop Reuben Job has done an excellent job of taking John Wesley's "rules" and updating them for today. Although this is a slender volume, it is very rich in explaining the core of Christian living. I am conducting a group study on this book at my church, and the people are enjoying it. I highly recommend this book for all Christians, even those who are not Methodist.

This is an excellent book. Our church studied it together. We have passed so far over 50 books and the total just keeps growing. We use this as an orientation class to what our church is about and mission.

My title captures it well. In this book, Reuben Job reaches back into the roots of the Methodist movement, and spells out step by step the General Rules of Methodist societies. Those rules, "Do no harm," "Do good," and "Stay in love with God" are simple in appearance but difficult in application, yet Job does well in connecting these rules with the challenges of contemporary living. Job invites the reader to take up these rules, know the obstacles, face them, and press on in pursuit of drawing near to God. I led a group of ten high school students through this study, and I found the material accessible, clear, and applicable to the life of an American teenager. I believe that the material would apply well to other demographics as well, is useful for study, and is a great place to start for those new to the Wesleyan tradition. Worth reading, but even more worth practicing.

This is a short read, but a great one to meditate on, perhaps while on spiritual retreat or during a vacation week. It is a call to holiness saturated in grace. Job does a good job avoiding legalistic morality on the one hand and cheap grace on the other. Read, reflect, and live this book.

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