



Why Should I Stop at a Red Light?

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Why do we stop at red lights? After all, the reason is you would be afraid of getting a ticket. But most of the time there is no police around, yet we stop. Surely, we can look around and see if no other cars are coming and then we can go with impunity. Well, the question becomes why do we obey traffic laws and on a larger scale why do we obey any laws? Most likely because most of the time, you're probably not going to get caught and suffer no consequences. This is the biggest issue of our times. People feel that they have the right to do as they please if they are doing it in the name of some cause that they believe is sacred.

What kind of examples can you think of? Louis Mangione killed a health care executive in the name of social justice. He believed in insurance companies and the people who ran them were unredeemable bad. So, his view of changing society was to break the law because he thought it was right. Many rally to his side because they believe that their view is so right, that somebody can kill somebody and suffer no consequences. The same holds true for other protestors. Our constitution gives us the right to peaceful assembly to petition our government when we have grievances. But at what point are you allowed to violate the law without suffering consequences? Martin Luther King knew that if you violated the law he would go to jail. His peaceful stance led to sweeping changes and rocked the conscience of the country. However, today's protestors do not follow in Dr. King's legacy but rather want to break the law with impunity. Our leaders if they are on that side believe they can and will not enforce actions against it.

This is not a one-sided political issue. It affects both sides. Let's look at some recent examples. January 6 was a riot. People had the right to assemble and peacefully protest but they did not have the right to go into a building and essentially destroy parts of the building. Yet they were pardoned. Even those that actually committed crimes. This is an example of the right being guilty of violating the law for political purposes. On the left, it is a daily occurrence almost. No, you do not have the right to use your car as a weapon to hit an ICE agent as much as you may disagree with them. Blocking roads which prevent ambulances and police from responding to emergencies is not peaceful protest. It is a violation of the law. Attacking federal buildings is as much an insurrection as January 6 but because it is for a cause that you agree with then it's ok to break the law. Rioting and burning cities without consequence is ok if it's in the name of your cause. Occupying college campuses and preventing other students from getting their education is ok if it's for your cause. And if you are arrested there will be no consequences because the law is not enforced. This is the issue of our times. If we disagree let's violently disagree with each other and break the law when you feel your cause is right. Society only functions when people follow the law and challenge those laws peacefully in order to get representatives to vote and change the law.

MLK and the brutal treatment he received challenged the conscience of a nation leading to sweeping changes to get to establish human rights for all. The current protests be that of the left or the right do not want to work within the system but to overthrow it and establish their own form of justice. They think they are appealing to the conscience of a nation, but they are not. So, we go back to the original question. We obey laws and don't go through red lights because we have an inbred sense of right and wrong.

Therefore, we obey laws because we know society needs that to survive. Whether it's ingrained from our religious background or just our own ethics or we're just taught by our parents that there is good and evil and only good can lead to a civilized society. What's lacking today in these protests is a sense of conscience. We think we can do things with impunity because we think that our own moral beliefs which are generated not by our parents or our religion or our ethics but come from the influencers on the internet or by teachers in our schools who only present one point of view. That is the danger of society. The danger that everybody will soon believe they have the right to go through a red light and damn the ones that they may hurt.