

**Philosophy 235**  
**Handout on rights and duties**

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x is obligatory (or x is a duty): it is wrong to not do  $x$

A has a right to x: It is wrong for anyone to stop A from having  $x$ , or from doing  $x$ .  
= Everyone has a duty to not stop A from having/doing  $x$ .

A has a right to  $x$  against B: It is wrong for B to stop A from having/doing  $x$ .  
= B has a duty to not stop A from having/doing  $x$ .

*Thinking about rights:*

What  $x$  is wrong to prevent or take away? That's what the right is to.

Who is wronged if  $x$  is taken away or prevented? That's who has the right.

Who does wrong by taking away or preventing  $x$ ? That is who the right is against. (This person also has a duty to not prevent/take away  $x$  from the person who has the right)

- a. It is wrong for parents to deprive their children of love.  
= Children have a right against their parents to love.  
= Parents have a duty to not prevent their children from being loved.
- b. It is wrong for anyone to deprive children of their parents' love.  
= Children have a right to their parents' love (children have a right to be loved by their parents).  
= People have a duty to not stop children from being loved by their parents.