

Oklahoman commandment

(June 2024)

In the news today:

"Oklahoma's state superintendent directed all public schools to teach the Bible, including the Ten Commandments."

The mainstream media appear to be quite baffled and even scandalized by the decision.

However, even a man devoid of religion would fail to comprehend how and why such a large part of the press should feel such outrage, since.

- A. The Bible¹ and its declensions in other monotheist religions is the foundation of Western cultures;
- B. As a book of culture it should naturally be presented to school students in the same fashion as other pieces of literature;
- C. If such writings of fiction as *Lord of the Flies*, *Animal Farm*, *1984*, *The Odyssey*, *Beowulf*, *The Canterbury Tales*, and so many others are mandatorily taught in high schools, an impartial observer would think that rejecting the Bible from the list would be an act of intolerance, bigotry, segregation, and certainly an impediment to the understanding of others.

With regard to the Ten Commandments, an impartial observer again would have some trouble understanding the potential shocking nature of any of the said Commandments ².

¹ From βιβλίον (*biblion*), Greek for *book*

² The comments below were communicated by a man devoid of any religious creed.

	COMMANDMENT	COMMENTS	OBSERVATIONS
1	Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.	I shall certainly not, indeed	
2	Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image or idols neither kneel before them nor worship them.	I shall certainly not, indeed	
3	Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.	I shall certainly not, indeed	
4	Remember the Sabbath day.	I shall	
5	Honour thy father and thy mother.	Indeed	Should be made into law
6	Thou shalt not murder.	Indeed	Was made into law
7	Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor commit adultery.	Indeed	Is law, as per the vows taken by groom and bride
8	Thou shalt not steal.	Indeed	Was made into law
9	Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.	Indeed	Was made into law
10	Thou shalt not covet his slaves, or his animals, or anything of thy neighbour.	Indeed	However, coveting is the basis of the economy

Shouldn't a public so struck by moral shock demand by the same token that the words "*In God We Trust*" be erased from all currency bills, and any reference to God be deleted from the *Pledge of Allegiance*, whether one agrees or not with all the wording?

Or shouldn't the public show some intelligent and educated open-mindedness at long last?

On the other hand, why should anyone expect from the public at large any more maturity than from the past and current Chief Executives and Commanders in Chief ³ whose debate last night confirmed without uncertainty that the two octogenarians' rhetorical and dialectical skills do not exceed those of Kindergarten pupils.

³ Those with a Finger on the Nuclear Button