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Trump and the Ten Commandments: You decide!

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A few weeks ago, it was suggested we probably shouldn't use the Bible to evaluate the efficacy of political positions.

I'm assuming this includes describing the United States as a "Christian Nation," demanding that the Ten Commandments be posted in every school, court room and outhouse in the country, and using the Bible to argue against abortion and transgender rights, even though neither is explicitly categorized as a sin in that sacred book.

Setting those obvious exceptions aside for a moment, the commentary probably didn't have the intended effect (something to do with four fingers pointing backwards). Instead, I was inspired by the attempt to admonish me for my sacrilegious lapse in religious judgment.

In fact, I was motivated to up my game.

Consequently, I decided to take the reprimand to heart by examining the current administration, specifically the president, using the aforementioned Ten Commandments as an assessment tool.

Disclaimer: I'm taking for granted that most readers know the Ten Commandments; if not, please feel free to check a school, courtroom, or outhouse near you.

So without further delay:

Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Hmm. I take it this means you shouldn't worship money, possessions, mansions, golf courses, stock options, real estate, or anything else – your devotion to God should be paramount in your life. You be the judge.

Thou shalt not make graven images. Wouldn't that include hanging gigantic banners of your face on government buildings and putting up golden statues of your likeness? Or maybe having your face plastered on currency or other official documents? Asking for a friend.

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain. Help me out here. Would saying they should be damned by God in a slightly more concise format qualify here? How about saying "Praise Allah" in order to mock your enemies? Just checking.

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. I'm going to go out on a limb here and say in the Christian tradition this is referring to Sunday. I believe this would include attending church every Sunday and not seeing the Lord's Day as one of the most convenient times to hit the links. You decide.

Honor your father and mother. I feel it's easier to keep this commandment if your policies weren't aimed at separating children from their parents. Moreover, notice that both parents have equal standing in this commandment. If you don't respect mom as much as dad, you are probably falling down on this one. Am I right?

Thou shalt not kill. This one pretty much precludes the death penalty, use of deadly force to achieve your goals, and starting unnecessary, illegal wars that kill innocent civilians. Or as Voltaire put it, "It is forbidden to kill; therefore, all murderers are punished unless they kill in large numbers and to the sound of trumpets." What am I missing here?

Thou shalt not commit adultery. I understand this to mean when you're married, you can't have sex with anyone other than your spouse. I could go into a lot more detail here, referencing

affairs, porn stars, department store encounters, teenagers, and islands, but there is a word limit on my columns. Thoughts?

Thou shalt not steal. In other words, don't take what's not yours. Got it. I'm guessing that would include performing arts centers dedicated to a real president, taking money for phones and never delivering them, fraud in the form of bogus degrees, stiffing contractors, and elections. What have I left out?

Thou shalt not bear false witness. Which implies you should always tell the truth. OK. Let's give him the benefit of the doubt here. He's not a complete liar. The Washington Post only documented 30,573 false or misleading claims during his first term and PolitiFact estimates that fully 3 percent of the statements he makes are absolutely true. So there.

Thou shalt not covet. Interesting. If someone else has something like a Nobel Peace Prize, you shouldn't want one so bad you are willing to take one that doesn't belong to you just to soothe your ego. Or if someone has a larger crowd size you feel inferior and threatened. Correct?

There you have it. As is usually my style, I'll leave it to you decide for yourself whether the current administration, specifically the president, has the Ten Commandments at the core of his being. Or if his moral compass has been seriously demagnetized over the years.

And whether it's kosher to use the Bible to evaluate political positions.



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