

Should Louisiana Be Able to Post The Ten Commandments in Public Schools?

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When I first heard this story, my first reaction was to laugh! Do you think we could lighten up on our religious dysfunctions long enough to have a serious conversation about religion? Young people need to understand that religion in general and the Bible in particular are very serious topics that need more attention than simply glancing at the ten commandments. Much of our culture depends on serious reflection on our world views which generally stem from various religious beliefs many of which should be embraced or rejected after considerable and timely critical thinking.

Ironically, just last week I resurrected an issue that I think is long overdue. That is getting the Bible off the banned book list. I am facetiously referring to various communities attempts to ban books considered “inappropriate” for certain readers. Of course, there was never an attempt to put the Bible on that list, but for all practical purposes, it might as well be. (For those who actually know the Bible, they might have some reservations about appropriate content; for instance, “the sons of God” impregnating fair humans and creating giants, or Judah sleeping with a whore who turned out to be his daughter in law, or Absalom’s murder of his brother for raping his sister.)

I lost a Congressional seat by 5% in GA 7th district in 1984 by stating I would offer a Sense of Congress Resolution that it is alright to teach the Bible in public schools if certain judicial guidelines are followed. These guidelines can be found at these links and are approved by the ACLU, who incidentally are suing the State of Louisiana over the posting of the Ten Commandments.

[bible-publicschools.pdf \(bridge-builders.org\)](#)

[Statement on The Bible in Public Schools: A First Amendment Guide | American Civil Liberties Union \(aclu.org\)](#)

The Rome (Georgia) Tribune put out an editorial saying I knew nothing about the separation of church and state and that I should go back to school, preferably Sunday school. The editorial was reprinted in the Marietta Journal. What I was proposing was the legitimacy of elective courses in the Old and New Testaments as the important literary and historical document that they are.

Why the bestselling book of all time (plus or minus 8 billion copies sold and countless portions given away) should be a mystery to most students is incomprehensible. About a third of the world hold this book in reverence and over two thirds of Americans claim to follow at least some of its teachings. References to passages from the Bible are replete in Western literature and some claim its tenets laid the basis for science. Today we have scientists studying the mysteries of entanglement in quantum physics, the Big Bang, and DNA as “The Language of God.” See Nobel Laureat Francis Collins’ book of that name.

If we want to overcome the despair and violence in public school classrooms, we must challenge the minds of today’s students with ideas that capture the imagination. Never before has so much information been available to do so right at our fingertips. These curious youngsters only need to be placed on the path of discovery that opens before them when challenged with the ideas of the ages many of which are found rooted in the religions of the past.

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