

American Values Are Dying



<http://www.dfamily.com/philosophy/teach/hswtl/journal.html>

[Reality absolutists and the 10 Commandments displayed in court houses.] Break Down of Society

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<http://www.newsmax.com/archives/articles/2003/7/2/220328.shtml>

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"Gradually, that which had become the basic thought form of modern people became the almost totally accepted viewpoint, an almost monolithic consensus. And as it came to the majority of people through art, music, drama, theology, and the mass media, values died."

Those are the words of one of my mentors, the late theologian Francis A. Schaeffer, in his seminal book, "How Should We Then Live?"

Dr. Schaeffer was lamenting the fact that **Christian ideals and traditional moral standards that had defined this nation for most of its great history were gradually being replaced by arbitrary absolutes that have no basis in history or religious doctrine.**

[Is the first statement correct?

Which philosophical period had most to do with defining our nation from it's beginning?

Is the 2nd statement true?

Is "arbitrary absolutes" true or an opinion?

Need to name a few modern absolutes first?

Abortion is ...

physician-assisted suicide

"religion is the backbone of American culture, providing the moral and spiritual light needed for public and private life." vs "Religion is the bane of public life, so for the public good it should be banned from the public square."

political correctness ...

Tolerance

"fundamentalist"

Speaking my mind about political issues ...

Bed time ...

Modest attire

Sex outside of marriage ...

Alcohol ...

Movies ...

Art vs pornography

Ordinary words

<William Watkins lists some words some real estate agents learn to shun in an effort to avoid offending potential buyers. **Executive** has racist overtones since most executives are white. **Sports** enthusiast might make the disabled feel left out. **Master** bedroom creates images of slavery. **Walk-in** closet could offend people who can't walk.>

If true, would everyone agree they are true?

If false, could you anticipate some of the arguments as to why modern absolutes are not arbitrary?

<Author William Watkins believes that despite the rhetoric, Americans are in fact not relativists; we are in reality absolutists. He says that, rather than abandoning absolutes, we are simply adopting new ones to replace the old.>

Is that statement not **DoubleSpeak**?

Is there no historical bases for some modern absolutes?

Where do modern, or relativity absolutes come from?

<Watkins says, "that truth and error, right and wrong, beautiful and ugly, normal and abnormal, and a host of other judgments are determined by the individual, . . . circumstances, or . . . culture. . . . There is no transcendent God or universal natural law we can point to that can inform us about who we are, what our world is like, and how we should get along in it.">

Is religious doctrine involved in any absolutes anymore?

Why not?

{*Remind me to talk about the language a Christian needs to use in a secular society some day rather than get off topic here... 🍌* }

The result was an ever-changing system of standards that could be easily modified as unconditional social policies were altered. Subsequently, abortion became the law of the land, the theory of evolution became fact in academia, and sexual deviancy became conventional behavior in secular society.

[Can a system of standards based on Biblical truths be easily modified?

What are some examples?

Those big issues which had Constitutional Amendments behind them, what were they?

- Slavery
- States Rights
- Prohibition
- Women's suffrage
- Voting rights
- Civil Rights
- Child Labor

Where these issues change easily?

Where these issues based upon Biblical Truths?

Where these relativity based absolutes, if absolutes they were?

Three examples are given. Are they absolutes (*relative or absolute absolute*)?

Abortion?

If Relative, why would anyone with Abortion to be true?

Is the problem with Abortion a Logical Outworking of something else?

Evolution?

If Relative, why would anyone with Evolution to be true?

Is the problem with Abortion a Logical Outworking of something else?

Sexual deviancy?

If Relative, why would anyone with Sexual deviancy to be true?

Is the problem with Abortion a Logical Outworking of something else?]

In addition, biblical standards that were central in defining American law and social guidelines were treated spitefully by those who adhere to situational ethics and readily flexible moral beliefs.

As we celebrate the 227th birthday of America on Friday, we do so grieving yet another crucial court decision that has wounded our once diligently protected religious freedoms.

The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed this week with a federal trial court that the **Ten Commandments memorial placed in the rotunda of the Alabama Judicial Building by state Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore must be removed.**

[Do you agree with the removal of the Ten Commandments?

Do you see a problem with Separation of Church and State here?

Are you prepared to show me that phrase in the Constitution?

Can you see a reason for removing the Ten Commandments from the rotunda other than on Church / State grounds?

Can you see a court order being used to have any other picture (*non religious*) removed from the rotunda some day?]

Judge Moore authorized the **memorial as a reminder that the biblical laws stand as the moral groundwork of American law.**

[Is the latter statement correct true?

If no, make your case.

Is placing the 10 Commandments as a memorial change the Church / State issue?]

The Thomas More Law Center, a national public interest law firm based in Ann Arbor, Mich., responded to the decision by noting that the Ten Commandments "clearly form the basis of the judicial code of this country, and it is proper and permissible for a display to appear on public property that includes the Ten Commandments." The Law Center argued that the **First Amendment "mandates an accommodation of religious faith and is not restricted to only the secular."**

[Is this true?

<Amendment I: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.>

Do accommodation and establishment mean the same thing?]

Edward L. White III, associate counsel with the Thomas More Law Center, observed that
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the Eleventh Circuit's decision came **less than one week after another federal appellate court, the 3rd Circuit, based in Philadelphia, upheld the display of the Ten Commandments on the wall outside a courthouse.**

[If we are working with absolutes, then why can 2 federal circuit courts rule 2 different ways on the same issue?]

"Because there appears to be a conflict between the decisions of these appellate courts, we hope the United States Supreme Court will review these cases and reaffirm government's ability to acknowledge in public our religious heritage, especially the moral foundation of our law," Mr. White said.

History Favors Public Recognition of Religion

Our Founding Fathers consistently spoke of the need for utilizing the Bible and Judeo-Christian values in defining and preserving this nation:

- **Twelve of the original 13 colonies incorporated the entire Ten Commandments into their civil and criminal codes.**

[Is that news to you?]

- **President John Adams stated: "The law given from Sinai was a civil and municipal code as well as a moral and religious code. These are laws essential to the existence of men in society and most of which have been enacted by every Nation which ever professed any code of laws. Vain indeed would be the search among the writings of secular history to find so broad, so complete and so solid a basis of morality as the Ten Commandments lay down."**

(Note that the American Bible Society was started by an act of Congress, and John Adams, our second president, served as its first leader.)

- **President George Washington said: "It is impossible to govern the world without God and the Bible. Of all dispositions and habits that lead to political prosperity, our religion and morality are indispensable supporters."**
- **In 1782, the U.S. Congress voted in favor of a resolution recommending and approving the Bible for use in the schools.**

[Is this news to you?

When do you figure this resolution was undone?

What exactly is a resolution?]

- **Henry Laurens, fourth president of the Continental Congress, stated: "I had the honor of being one who framed the Constitution. In order effectually to accomplish these great constitutional ends, it is especially the duty of those who bear rule to promote and encourage respect for God and virtue."**

[How does this square with the virtual "Separation of Church and State"?)

- Patrick Henry, first governor of my beloved Virginia and a member of the Continental Congress, stated, "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that **this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ.** For this very reason peoples of other faiths have been afforded asylum, prosperity, and freedom of worship here."

[How does this square with the virtual "Separation of Church and State"?)

I could observe a host of similar examples confirming that America was founded as a Christian nation with sincere respect for and adherence to biblical values.

Last year, Congressman Roscoe Bartlett, R-Md., gave a "Special Orders Speech" before his colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In that speech he asked: "Are we better off today? Since we banished God from public life ... and allowed a vocal group of humanist activists to tell us our faith is dangerous to [the] liberties of this nation - are we better off?"

[A question. Your answer?
Your reasons for your answer are....]

I say the answer is a resounding no!

May Christians in this nation rise up and reclaim the religious freedoms that our Founders assured for us. If we do not, as Francis Schaeffer so clearly noted, the values of our forefathers will surely die.

The New Absolutes Reviewed by Rick Wade - <http://www.probe.org/docs/new-abso.html>



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