

**Ten Suggestions** for the “**Ten Commanders**,” those who think **Selected Commandments from the ancient Jewish Torah** should be the basis of laws, morality and education in a secular democracy in the 21st Century:

- 1) If you believe in One Particular God, that’s your right. Everyone else can believe in any god they choose, or no god at all.
- 2) If you believe your One Particular God doesn’t like their picture taken, don’t take one. Besides, if any image of God is forbidden, don’t all the representations of Jesus break this command?
- 3) If you think it hurts the feelings of your One Particular God to speak their name disrespectfully, don’t do it. Like every other command, it doesn’t apply to anyone else.
- 4) If you believe One Day of the week is special for you and your One Particular God, honor it. No one else has to.
- 5) Respecting parents is a universal principle in all cultures, but you can’t make people honor them (and some parents may not earn respect).
- 6) “Do no harm to living things” is a worthy, common sense guideline that does not depend on religious faith. And, let’s be honest, it’s probably true that more living things have been killed in the name of Religion (and religious commands) than anything else.
- 7) Respecting committed relationships makes ethical and practical sense. It doesn’t take a command from a deity to know that or practice that.
- 8) Most people learn in childhood that taking what doesn’t belong to you is hurtful and harmful. Again, it doesn’t take the demand of a divinity to choose not to steal anything (including another person—see #7 and \$10).
- 9) Valuing truth is learned in childhood when we’re taught by parents, teachers and experience that lying is bad, hurtful and harmful.
- 10) Wanting someone else’s slaves is wrong. Who needs a command for that? This one exposes how archaic and meaningless “commands to do the right thing” based on the religious rules of one community, are for anyone outside that community today. How do you control or punish a “thought crime”?

### **Bonus Suggestions/Questions for the “Ten Commanders”:**

11) Why do you selectively choose ten (10) commands from the 600+ commands in ancient biblical law? (why are these and no others relevant?)

12) Why aren't Jewish citizens pushing for their own religious laws from their Hebrew Bible to be displayed across the land?

13) What ethical teachings might be more effective than ancient commands enforced by self-appointed religious authorities—or pious politicians—under threat of punishment (especially by a secular government)?

For instance, why not post “Treat others as you wish to be treated” as stated in various forms by most world religions and ethical traditions (compare the “Ten Commitments” from the Humanist community: <https://americanhumanistcenterforeducation.org/ten-commitments/>).