



Family Concerns

"Bridging the Information Gap"

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THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

A SYMBOL OF THE BASIS OF OUR LAW OR RELIGION?

The Congressional Record on Wednesday, February 2, 1983 displays the Ten Commandments in conjunction with of H.J. Res. 437, declaring the "Year of the Bible" by the Honorable Philip M. Crane of Illinois:

"Whereas the Bible, the Word of God, has made a unique contribution in shaping the United States as a distinctive and blessed nation and people;

Whereas deeply held religious convictions spring from the Holy Scriptures led to the early settlement of our Nation;

Whereas Biblical teachings inspired concepts of civil government that are contained in our Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States,

Whereas many of our great national leaders – among them Presidents Washington, Jackson, Lincoln, and Wilson – paid tribute to the surpassing influences of the Bible in our country's development, as in the words of President Jackson that the Bible is "the rock on which our Republic rests,"

Whereas the history of our Nation clearly illustrates the value of voluntarily applying the teachings of the Scriptures in the lives of individuals, families and societies,

Whereas that renewing our knowledge of and faith in God through Holy Scripture can strengthen us as a Nation and a people; now therefore be it:

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President is authorized and requested to designate 1983 as a national "Year of the Bible" in the recognition of both the formative influence the Bible has been for our nation, and our national need to study and apply the teaching of the Holy Scriptures.

Furthermore, President Reagan has emphasized how fundamental and important the Ten Commandments (Emphasis added) are to any system of just law; "They say that man in his entire history has written about four billion laws, and with all the four billion they haven't improved on the Ten Commandments one bit."

The Ten Commandments are then written out in their entirety in the Congressional Record.

The historical importance of the Ten Commandments is even captured in the architecture of the U.S. Supreme Court building. Directly above the bench in the courtroom is a marble sculpture of the Ten Commandments tablet between

two central figures depicting Majesty of the Law and Power of Government.

The Ten Commandments are not a religious document; based on the history of our country, they are the foundation of law. They are the precedent legal code upon which American law and civil government are based. Only Congress can take action to respond to the extension of political authority of judges. Article I, Section 5 of the U.S. Constitution requires the keeping and distributing of Official Debates and Proceedings of the Congress of the United States to We the People. Article III, Section 2 of the Constitution states: ". . . in all other Cases before mentioned, the Supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make." The Constitution clearly states that "All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States." Article I, Section 1.

James Madison, author of the Constitution, wrote in the *Federalist Papers* which were the exposition of the original intent of the Constitution: "Each State, in ratifying the Constitution, is considered as a sovereign body, independent of all others, and only to be bound by its own voluntary act. In this relation then, the new Constitution will, if established, be a FEDERAL and not a NATIONAL constitution . . . the powers delegated by the proposed Constitution to the federal government are few and defined. Those which are to remain in the State governments are numerous and indefinite."

One of the reasons Justice Moore is defying the federal courts is that he believes that he cannot be in disobedience of a judicial order where there is no jurisdiction. Some have interpreted the Fourteenth Amendment's "privileges or Immunities" clause as to apply the Bill of Rights restrictions on the central government to all levels of government including judges. [The Federalist, August 29, 2003, No. 03-35 Digest]

Obviously, there are many opinions that need to be sorted out. One thing is clear: the Ten Commandments have been the basis of legal jurisprudence in this country and have been recognized as such throughout our country's history by Christians and non-Christians alike. A monument to the basis of our law is not establishing a religion; it is recognizing the truth. And the truth shall set us free! There can be no justice without righteousness. The Ten Commandments document the standard of righteous behavior. A "people's government" cannot govern itself unless there are standards of righteousness to uphold. Our measuring stick has always been the Ten Commandments; an unrighteous people cannot govern themselves. Perhaps that is the point in all this.

Think about it.