

God is still speaking through the 10 C's . . .

OUR CULTURE THINKS have *no other Gods before me* is “nice” unless it’s Super Bowl Sunday or the Final Four.

PERHAPS GOD says you shall neither worship your car, your “ice,” or your wide-screen.

OUR CULTURE THINKS you *shall not make for yourself an idol* except for Madonna; Starbucks; X Box; Nike; Chief Wahoo, et al.; the American flag; and Wall Street.

MAYBE GOD says you shall not worship the idol of individualism that leads to the **American dream** of “success” only **for some** of God’s children.

OUR CULTURE THINKS you *shall not take the Name of the Lord, thy God, in vain* unless you lose something you thought was yours, you don’t get something you thought you deserved, or you smash your finger.

MAYBE GOD says you shall not take God’s Name in vain EVER, especially not as justification for the separation of peoples/cultures or to strip **civil liberties** or as justification for war on **terrorism**.

OUR CULTURE THINKS *remember the Sabbath day* means to keep it Holy by shopping or watching the kid’s soccer game instead of going to church.

PERHAPS GOD says spend some time with me, your family, and a community of faith.

OUR CULTURE THINKS the meaning of *honor your father and mother* expires when our parents reach the age of 75 or can’t care for themselves.

PERHAPS GOD says honor older parents with needed Medicare and affordable **prescription drugs**. Honor younger parents with affordable, available, quality **child care** so that they can earn a living.

OUR CULTURE BELIEVES you *shall not commit adultery* unless you know you won’t get caught.

POSSIBLY GOD says you should be faithful to the one you love no matter your **sexual orientation**.

OUR CULTURE THINKS you *shall not steal* unless you really, really want something and a) don’t have it; b) don’t want to pay the money; c) it’s a natural resource we need and another nation has; d) it’s for the protection of our national security.

MAYBE GOD SAYS you should not siphon **oil** from the Middle East, Africa, or Latin America in order to satisfy our industrial need for fossil fuel. You should not bankrupt small family **farmers** by disproportionately supporting corporate farms. You shall not mouth “high” academic expectations for our nation’s children and then steal money from schools to pay for war and huge **tax cuts**.

OUR CULTURE SAYS you *shall not bear false witness against your neighbor* unless your neighbor doesn’t look like you, doesn’t live like you, doesn’t speak the English language, or calls God by another name.

POSSIBLY GOD says tell the truth about our relationship with the Saudi government and with oppressive leaders around the world. Release dozens of Arabs and Muslims still in American jails since 9/11. Come clean about using the **Patriot Act** to regenerate a new brand of **McCarthyism**.

OUR CULTURE BELIEVES you *shall not covet your Neighbor’s property* unless your neighbor’s crib is bigger than yours or has more “toys” that bling-bling. Note: “neighbor” includes other countries and planets.

PERHAPS GOD SAYS you shall not covet another culture’s land or tax benefits obtained on the backs of the poor or **global trade** advantages . . . water . . . air . . . women . . . or immigrants . . . as personal property.

OUR CULTURE MAINTAINS you *shall not kill* unless you are one of the states with the death penalty, look different, talk different, think different or you’re trying to off Osama bin Laden or Saddam Hussein. (Note: Collateral damage, maimings, casualties, and the like are unavoidable, regrettable, justifiable, and patriotic).

PROBABLY GOD SAYS you shall not kill, period. Not by lethal injection, not by surgical air strikes, or by endangering the lives of millions of Americans by failing to provide **health insurance** or food or **AIDS meds**.

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