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Community CURRENT

« [Fortune's "Best Places To Work" has several local ties](#) | [Ten Commandments rehung, groups vow legal action against Giles Co.](#) »

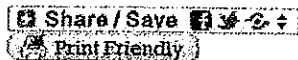
2011.01.20

Giles Co. parents insist 10 commandments be returned to schools

Hundreds of Giles County parents and residents are at the county school board meeting this afternoon, expressing their displeasure that 10 commandments posted inside each of the county schools were recently removed.

Here is the letter from the [Giles County Schools](#) that prompted the removal over Christmas break.

And here is the December letter from [Giles Co Schools VA Response](#) vowing that they would be removed.



Posted at 04:34 by Chris Winston | Category: [Events](#), [Giles County](#), [Schools & education](#) | [162 Comments](#)

162 Comments »



Freedom of religion means freedom from religion. If those parents, students and residents need to be reminded of what the ten commandments are, they ought to carry a wallet card. What if they forget #9 when they are at the supermarket? The school display won't help.

Comment by TECarter — January 20, 2011 @ 4:53 pm



I think it is a shame that out of thousands of people 350 of them find it offensive to see "Love thy father and mother" and "Thou shalt not steal" posted somewhere that our children will see it daily. That is what is wrong with this world now, people trying to impose their beliefs on everybody else. Isn't that what America is about? I am totally behind the school board in placing these "commandments" back where my son can be reminded daily of the true values that are so important in these times that we live in now. If people don't want to see them, don't read them!!!

Exhibit 8

77.



Freedom of religion does NOT IN ANY WAY mean freedom FROM religion. There is NO separation of church and state in the constitution.....none. What the 1st amendment states is that the federal government may not institute a compulsory national religion. Consider the Church of England at the time as an example. To repress every bit of religion in a public forum is actually denying freedom of religion and of expression to those who are religious. The liberal bastards from Wisconsin need to stay the hell in Wisconsin and let the citizens of Giles county worry about Giles county. when I was a kid in the 70s, we had bible school during school hours, although even then, we had to walk across the street to the church. If a kid or a kids parents did not want to participate, they didn't. This sort of bull manure is why the liberals cry whenever someone suggests vouchers for parents to send their kids to a school of the parent's choosing. The liberal wants the kids held hostage in order to force the liberal agenda down our kids throats. The liberal wants to force us into perpetuating the teachers unions. If the parent can take a voucher and send their kids to a private school, the liberal loses all that say so. Why the mean old conservative parent may actually send their children to a school where God can be openly discussed. How about this.....I see the imposition of atheism to be violating my first amendment rights. Now leave these people in Giles County alone. The more the liberal pushes, the bigger the backlash when it comes, and it is coming. People will only be screwed with for so long. I know Dan Casey is likely to stick his pathetic nose into this....screw him too.

Comment by David In Salem — January 22, 2011 @ 6:40 am

78.



Sure enough liberal Dan has his nose in it. By the way, the Separation text is in an 1803 letter from Jefferson to the Danbury Baptists who were concerned that the government was going to Prohibit them FROM practicing their variant of Christianity.

Comment by David In Salem — January 22, 2011 @ 7:05 am

79.



1st Amendment for those dispose to claiming that separation is in there.

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.

Comment by David In Salem — January 22, 2011 @ 7:28 am

80.



I give praise to the school board of Giles Co.for listening to the good God believing people.We wonder why this Country is in the terrible condition it is in, and it will get worse if we don,t change the course in which it is headed.I am A veteran of 28 Yrs. in the military and the reason is because I believe in my god and country,this country,and I use my bible as the road map of my faith,and the ten commandments have been my foundation and will continue to be,Romans 10:23 tells me why I need to and Romans 6:23 is my reward,am I willing to stand and fight for this right? You better believe it.2 Timothy 3:1-5.The 10 Commandments should have never been taken down.I give God praise for the citizens of Giles Co.New Prospect Church,Bed.Co.

Comment by Harry Stevens — January 22, 2011 @ 7:36 am

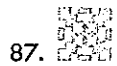
81.



The letter from Jefferson to the Danbury Baptists. Note that this is not part of any law. Also, read it in entirety, and you may wish to actually read that which prompted this letter. What Jefferson is saying is that government cannot interfere with religious expression...ie interpose itself between man and God.

but your wrong. There can only be one right answer. We have people that do not want to accept the right answer. Everyone should be more concerned with other items your children have access too. Internet,TV,Video games,Texting and cell phones are only a few. God forbid they pass by the ten commandments while in school. God forbid they could read something suggesting a better way to live there life. When I was in school, we had to stand and say the pledge of allegants and pray every morning in school. Oh NO it ruined me for life..lol...P.S. We also got our butts busted when you got out of line. Some of these people have to realize that there are consequences for your actions. These groups have taught young children that you do not have to be accountable for your actions. They imply that it is OK to blame someone else for your behavior. Wake up America! Do not continue to compromise. Do not comprosie our future anymore. Every citizen needs to take responsibility. I support the decision to the Giles County School Board. I am proud of the job that our school administration performs everyday. Several people have mentioned the money that will be spent in this so called "lawsuit". I have an idea, leave Giles County alone and take the money to solve real problems. The commandments have been there for the last 25 years and now because one group wants it removed, it's a problem. Wake up America!

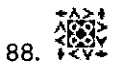
Comment by [Scott](#) — January 22, 2011 @ [1:08 pm](#)



@David in Salem: You can go on and on about what YOU believe the law to be when it comes to Separation of Church and State (or lack thereof) but you cannot escape the fact that many, many judges have repeatedly ruled in favor of separation and that this precedence has been established already by the courts. YOUR particular interpretation does not matter so maybe it's time to move on and accept things for what they are even if you don't like it? Or do you want to just continue to throw a little tantrum when you don't get YOUR god in OUR government?

Regarding your perceived imposition of atheism: NOBODY is telling you not to believe in your god. Nobody. There is no imposition. Atheists (and reasonable Christians) simply want there to be NO religion in our government – not just Christianity. A lack of religion (or secularism) does not religious imposition make.....

Comment by [CdAHumanist](#) — January 22, 2011 @ [1:25 pm](#)



I guess you could call me a part of the "bad guys" and "minority" group... But first I would like to clearly say that I am pro-CULTURE and a student of Giles High School. I am also not going to deny that I never once looked at the 10 commandments, much like many of the other students of the "good" and "bad" guy variety at GHS.

However, instead of dealing with lawsuits or angry Christians, there are other, CHEAPER ways to go. I want to learn about the other religions outside of Giles County. So, instead of getting sued and spending the money that goes towards the education I (and other students)am learning from, put up three or four other religions next to the ten commandments. Wouldn't it be interesting to see how different (or similar) the "commandments" of Buddhism are to Christianity?

Instead of getting all angry and worked up by each other's remarks, why don't we come up with a compromise? Granted, the extremes of either end may not be happy, but that is partially the point of "compromise": a middle ground in which both sides can relate to. Or have we finally come to such a point of separation that there is no way to fill the gap? I hope not, but I will still love this little county. I would live no where else, 10 commandments in my school or not.

Comment by [aGHSstudent](#) — January 22, 2011 @ [1:29 pm](#)



I liked what David in Salem wrote:

"I see the imposition of atheism to be violating my First Ammendment rights.....The more the liberal pushes, the bigger the backlash when it comes, and it is coming. People will only be screwed with for so long"

I don't know if Giles can win this fight, but I'd love to see vouchers for private schools become a reality, and hopefully

the stand that Giles is taking on this can wake us up to how much interest there is in moral and spiritual education for children (and adults) in public life.

Religious and moral education is not something shameful, having to be done in private, but, something that is absolutely necessary for the health of civilization and our communities. It should not be illegal!

With God, good, Love, Spirit, Truth, divine Law, etc left out of our government and public institutions, we end up instead being unwittingly governed by atheism and it's resulting worship of materialism and focus on self—as in selfishness, sensuality, greed, envy, hatred, etc, etc. which brings to mind the 7 deadly sins written about in the Bible: wrath, greed, sloth, pride, lust, envy, and gluttony.

Who doesn't see these sins running rampant in our society?


Sin needs to be chained and religion and morality are God's provision for us—a gift to help us not to be enslaved by sin and evil and therefore, to be truly free.

"It is religion and morality, alone, which can establish the principles upon which freedom can securely stand." John Adams 2nd US President

"Religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall be forever encouraged." US Continental Congress Ordinance of 1787, Art III

God Bless America and let this dear Country be restored to it's original foundation of love for God, good, Spirit, and Truth written about in the Holy Bible. As for the atheistic moral relativism which seem to be dominating our culture, attempting to steal the sacredness and holiness of Life, let IT be silenced and put to shame.


Comment by Hope in Blacksburg — January 22, 2011 @ 1:29 pm

90. 

@Hope in Blacksburg: "As for the atheistic moral relativism which seem to be dominating our culture, attempting to steal the sacredness and holiness of Life, let IT be silenced and put to shame."


Nobody is attempting to steal your sacredness and holiness. Do whatever the heck you want. Just don't apply your sacredness and holiness to everyone else. Yes, morality is relative to your belief system and Christianity does not have a monopoly on morality. People can be and are GOOD WITHOUT GOD.

Comment by CdAHumanist — January 22, 2011 @ 3:52 pm

91. 

I'm getting along in years and don't recollect as well as I used to but I don't think we followed the rule of law back when our forefathers threw all that tea into the Boston Harbor! So me thinks that the ACLU can kiss our collective selves. I believe there has been a few consequential battles fought in Giles county and seems to me this is as good a place to dig in as any. Those people don't try to push other people around, neither do they run. Leave them alone, if necessary have a county or state election and let the majority rule. If that don't work, welcome anyone that don't like the majority rule to leave. I applaud the Giles County School Board!!!!

Comment by Joe Stanley — January 22, 2011 @ 5:13 pm

92. 

Schools are for Reading, Writing & Arithmetic! Church is for religion. If we condone religion in schools, perhaps there is no longer a need for churches. Everything has a time and place. Public educational facilities during school hours is neither the time nor place for religion. Should Geometry, Chemistry, Physics and Biology be taught in church instead of religion? Church is neither the time nor place for math and science.

Comment by Reality vs. Fantasy — January 22, 2011 @ 8:13 pm

93.



Sure sounds to me like non-Christians ought to move out of Giles County before things get ugly over there.

Comment by Philip — January 22, 2011 @ 8:14 pm

94.



mmmmmm. See there! GHSstudent has given the most economical, loving and open minded suggestion so far and she did not have to use one curse word or bias opinion to do so. Great job. Again, it appears the Giles County School System is working. Apparently our morals and values are being absorbed.

Everyone wants to talk about the constitution. I do not think that many people truly understand the meaning of the constitution. Do you realize that the constitution has been broken or violated hundreds of times since the conception of this country. Just because the U.S. Congress passes a law does not mean it is constitutional. However, several of these laws remain on the books today. It does not mean they were right. Most recently was health care reform. The state of Virginia filed suit not longer after the bill passed and it is currently being voted on again.

It is also apparent that many people do not spend alot of time in our court systems. Not as a defendant but as a observer. To many watch too much CSI and Peoples Court it appears. Walk into the courtrooms across the country and you will be suprised how many have the ten commandments posted in the building. When every person in the country is sworn to testify how the words "promise to tell the whole truth so help you God" are given prior to the testimony. How there is a bible on the bench of every courtroom in the United States. P.S. (this also includes the U.S. Supreme Court) When the court officer brings the room to attention his last words are God bless the commonwealth. It seems that before they should remove the ten commandments from little ole Giles County, they would do some house cleaning of their own.

The word God appears everywhere throughout history. Now, we can all argue which God that could be. I have a real good idea which God our founding father's meant when they signed the constitution. I do not believe that any religion should be forced on anyone. However, I do believe that people should be given the option of faith or if any. Do you realize the government has forced the teaching of religion in our schools. Yep. It is called SOL testing. The United States government has mandated that certain religions be taught in your school systems, along with several other subjects that parents do not feel appropriate for elementary school children. Where was everybody when this was going on?

I think that people are tired of the direction this country is headed. Not in the past five years but the past forty. I think that the citizens of Giles County simply expressed, enough is enough. They are sick and tired of this country not accepting responsibility for their actions. They want people to have morals, values and respect and for many the ten commandments represented that. Not that it represents it for everyone but it does for the majority of this community. It does represent what the majority of the citizens have been raised with. It shows the culture and heritage from which their families instilled in them over hundreds of years.

We are no different than any other parent in the world, we just want our children to live in a better world. And yes, the citizens of Giles County do have a "us against the world mentality". The reason they do is because they have worked hard all their life to get what they have. Giles County has continued to be one of the lowest funded counties in Virginia. They have scratched out community in these mountains that they are proud of, with little or no help from our goverment. It is a county in which the churches (of several denominations) almost out number the people. They are strong in their faith because sometimes that is all they have had.

I am not a teacher nor am I a bible thumper. However, I was raised in a church and many of those values have got me where I am at today. I do believe in God. In my profession you realize that there is a higher power.

Comment by Scott — January 22, 2011 @ 8:21 pm

95.



Good for Giles County for forcing this into the spotlight once again. We as a nation need to think long and hard about what we want. I still say as parents, raise your children in the method you feel comfortable with. Your school will try to help, but it's your job as parents at the end of the day.