

# HOW LEFTISM VIOLATES ALL 10 COMMANDMENTS



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# ***How Leftism Violates All 10 Commandments***

## **Introduction**

Leftism is evil.

Liberalism is not leftism; liberalism assumes human freedom and individualism. Leftism is totalitarian collectivism: the notion that the interests of the collective must dominate the interests of the individual, and that a grand and glorious group of men at the peak of the knowledge pyramid can determine the interests of the collective on behalf of the whole.

Historically, leftism has been a bloody mess. That's because diffuse knowledge beats centralized knowledge – any system that assumes that a group of experts knows more on a given topic than the rest of humanity combined is bound to fail. If you took all the people on one page of the Los Angeles phone book, they would know more about life, together, than Einstein did. That means that no one person, no one

oligarchy, is qualified to run a government, let alone our individual lives.

And the results of any competition between freedom and collectivism speak for themselves.

When my great-grandfather came over to the United States in 1921 from Russia, he spoke no English; he didn't have any money. He came here, he lived with family, he learned English, he started a business, he worked so that his children could do better than he had done, and so their children could do better than they had. That's how freedom works.

My great-grandfather's relatives did not come to the United States. Instead, they stayed in Russia. Then they moved to Warsaw. Then they were gassed in Auschwitz. That's how collectivism works.

Make no mistake: in today's left, we face the same evil my extended family faced. It comes today with a smiley face, as Jonah Goldberg has written, paraphrasing George Carlin, who stated, "when fascism comes to America, it will

not be in brown and black shirts. It will not be with jack-boots. It will be Nike sneakers and smiley shirts. Smiley-smiley.”

That “smiley-face fascism” comes with promises of new rights. It comes with pledges to do good. But it is not here to do you good. It comes instead with guns, guns wielded by government and dedicated to forcing you into *their* concept of the good. Every law that we pass, every regulation on the books – all of them are backed by a gun. The left refuses to acknowledge this basic truth, because leftists like to think of themselves as pacifists, gun-free folks who would never violate principles of consent. Leftists like to think of conservatives as gun-lovers. The truth, however, is far more dangerous: we love guns in order to protect our lives, our liberty, and our property; the left loves guns in order to invade our lives, liberties, and property in pursuit of utopia.

That is why you, a florist attempting to mind your own business and simply act in accordance with your religious beliefs, will find yourself on the wrong end of the government

gun should you refuse to participate in same-sex marriages.

First, the government will fine you; if you refuse to pay the fine, you will be shut down; then if you refuse to be shut down, they will send men in the night with guns to arrest you; finally, if you resist, they will shoot you.

Leftism without guns is ineffectual. Leftism with guns is totalitarian. Collectivists are addicted to the use of the gun. And what they believe is both dangerous and pernicious.

This is not to argue for anarchism; government's entire role is to use its monopoly on use of force – leaving aside defense of self and others – to enforce rights to life, liberty, and property. But that notion of government fosters *individualism*, because the preconditions for individuals are protection of life, liberty and property. Without rule of law, there is no individualism; without individualism, there is no rule of law.

So why does the left seem to be winning, if

what they believe is so damaging and nasty?

Because conservatives don't believe that collectivism is evil. We don't believe that the evils of collectivism are possible in the United States, even as we see collectivism steadily gaining ground in our country. That's because evil is for men with funny haircuts and little mustaches who speak German; evil is for people who play polo with goatheads and perform female genital mutilation on infants. Evil, we believe, is far away from us. It's not here. It can't be here. Those who promote collectivism in the United States aren't evil – they're just misguided. After all, they proclaim allegiance to the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, they have nice families, and they routinely inform us of their glorious intentions. If we believe anything about such leftists, we believe they're incompetent or misinformed.

And because we don't believe in the power of evil in the United States, the left wins. That's because they consistently argue in terms of their intentions. They argue that individualism must be quashed not in favor of the gulag, but in favor

of a nice, shiny tomorrow, in which all the racist, sexist, bigot homophobes who hate the poor are silenced. Doesn't that sound appealing?

In order to argue that they have such excellent intentions, of course, the left must argue that individual Americans are the truly evil ones. That's the only reason leftists need guns, they argue – if the public weren't so awful, the government wouldn't require overarching force combined with overarching authority to use it. *We*, the individuals, are the rights-violators; we are the bad guys. They are the good guys.

Except they're not.

We know that *not* just because of the impact of their policies, *not* just because of the literally hundreds of millions of dead bodies strewn around the globe thanks to the Soviet Union, China, North Korea, Vietnam, and the rest of the collectivist regimes. We know collectivism is evil *not* merely because of the crushing poverty that the collectivists have produced in places across the globe today, from South America and Africa and Asia to Detroit.



We know that collectivism is evil because their *intent* is evil, too.

How do we know this? Because their leftist philosophy violates every aspect of the greatest charter of morals ever laid before mankind, the Ten Commandments. Violating one is bad enough; violating all ten puts you in the company of history's greatest monsters.

Leftists in America are violating all Ten Commandments as they attempt to quash individualism in speech, in business, in religion, in childrearing -- in virtually every aspect of life.

This sort of language may make leftists uncomfortable. Hell, it makes *conservatives* uncomfortable, given their top goal of not offending anyone. But it's the truth. And truth-telling is significantly more important than cordiality.

Here is how leftism violates all Ten Commandments (note: this version of the Ten Commandments is the Jewish version, which

counts slightly differently than the Christian version).

**First Commandment: I am the Lord, your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of bondage.**

The first commandment expresses fundamental opposition to collectivism. We are all individuals created in the image of God. That means we are special and precious, and that means that bondage itself is an evil. No one is given the power to invade our rights based on a belief in their inherent superiority.

Collectivists in America believe precisely the opposite. Woodrow Wilson, for example, wrote, "No doubt, a lot of nonsense has been talked about the inalienable rights of the individual, and a great deal that was mere vague sentiment and pleasing speculation has been put forward as fundamental principle." Wilson suggested instead that the best men rule us all.

This is fundamentally anti-Biblical. Our rights, which derive from God, matter more than the government's belief in its own righteousness.

For three millennia for the Jewish people and for more than two centuries in America, the working theory has been that if you tell me that I am supposed to respect government above God, I will be ready to fight you to the death. The moment that changes, America becomes unfree.

The founders recognized that explicitly in the Declaration of Independence:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation

on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

God, and therefore the individual, is above government.

**Second Commandment: You shall have no other gods before me.**

That means *not* government. *Not* an arbitrary set of values. And certainly *not* a certain someone whose wife believes he has the capacity to “heal” our souls. Worship of man means betrayal of God – and betrayal of mankind.

It’s not merely enough to believe in God-given rights. No other figures can transcend God; to do so would be to make our rights alienable.

Idolatry and freedom are fundamentally incompatible. In 2012, I visited the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. It was one of the scariest experiences

of my life. The DNC was a cult-like atmosphere, complete with a sand statue of President Obama. They'd actually removed the iconography of the Democratic Party; the Democratic donkey was gone, replaced by Barack Obama's face, or his supremely creepy iconography complete with a blue O soaring over red-silhouetted people.

The idolatry was unlike anything I've ever seen in American politics.

Conservatives do not worship leaders. We like Ronald Reagan, but we recognize that he was a human being who made some supremely large errors. He did some wonderful things; he did some terrible things. He was a man. But leftists do not think that way. Collectivists can't *afford* to think that way. They must think in terms of idols, because even irreligious leftists are religious collectivists. Human beings are built to worship, and once God is removed from the picture, government and its leaders become competitors for the honor.

"The President is our boss," actor Chris Rock recently said. "The Dad of the country. And when your dad says something, you listen."

No, he isn't. But Rock's perspective is all too common on the left.

**Third Commandment: You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.**

Collectivists realize that by and large, Americans remain a religious group. That's why collectivists in the United States routinely cite the Bible to support positions directly contradicting the actual positions of the Bible. President Obama is fond of paraphrasing the book of Matthew – always out of context, of course – stating, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Nowhere in that passage does Jesus suggest that government redistributionism is a substitute for personal care for the poor. And Obama isn't nearly as fond of II Thessalonians 3:10: “If anyone is not willing to work, neither shall he eat.”

Obama is actually no fan of the Bible, unless he's selectively misquoting it. In 2006, he gave a speech in which he mocked the Bible openly:

Which passages of Scripture should guide our public policy? Should we go with Leviticus, which suggests slavery is OK – and that eating shellfish is an abomination? Or we could go with Deuteronomy, which suggests stoning your child if he strays from the faith. Or should we just stick to the Sermon on the Mount – a passage that is so radical that it's doubtful that our own Defense Department would survive its application. So before we get carried away, let's read our Bibles now. Folks haven't been reading their Bibles.

The chances that Barack Obama can quote two consecutive verses of Scripture are slightly lower than the chances that he can throw a baseball without short-arming it. Obama likes his Bible the way he likes his Constitution: roasted, with just a bit of barbecue sauce.

As for his complaints about Leviticus: on slavery, that's basic ignorance – Leviticus places strict limits on slavery unknown at the

time of the giving of the Bible; Jews still hold to prohibitions on shellfish (I should know, since I've never eaten an oyster); the Talmud relates that the passage regarding the wayward son in Deuteronomy was never once applied. As for the Sermon on the Mount, it is a call to prayer for those who do not follow the ways of God, not a call for surrender to foreign militaries.

But the point is this: Obama and his cronies quote the Bible regularly in order to pretend fealty to ideals they hate. In doing so, they take God's name in vain, whether they're busily calling pregnancies "punishments" or proclaiming that traditional marriage is antiquated.

#### **Fourth Commandment: Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.**

The basic notion of the Sabbath is that your labor belongs to God, not government. Sabbath also means that we must practice our religions in the public square, not keep them hidden. Every Sabbath-keeper has had to turn down public obligations in order to follow God's law. Sabbath is an acknowledgement that our work



is not our own, but God's.

And that's why collectivists hate the notion of the Sabbath: our labor, in their view, is not ours or God's. It is theirs. They own it. They can do what they please with it.

It is worth noting that our acknowledgment that our labor is God's keeps us a charitable and good people. Recognizing that we are conduits for God's property means that we are obligated to pass on what God has given us to others, as well. The goal of the Sabbath is to make us better human beings. Collectivism makes us worse human beings, because only by corrupting us can more collectivism be justified.

### **Fifth Commandment: Honor your father and mother.**

The left is not fond of fathers or mothers. Hence their hatred for traditional marriage, which is built on the notion that a father and a mother are necessary for the healthy upbringing of a child. The left hates traditional family structure for two reasons: families are

the fundamental barrier to the collective, and honoring your parents means honoring historic wisdom. The left dislikes both.

The Communist Manifesto is extraordinarily clear about this. The Communist Manifesto reads:

On what foundation is the present family, the bourgeois family, based? On capital, on private gain. In its completely developed form, this family exists only among the bourgeoisie. But this state of things finds its complement in the practical absence of the family among the proletarians, and in public prostitution.

In other words, the breakdown of the family is necessary for communitarianism because the family is the core element that protects you against the vicissitudes of life. Family is where you find protection; family means that you don't need government. In fact, family means that you generally want the government to leave you

alone so that you can care for those who matter most to you, rather than the vast collective. If you break down the family, you're building up the government. And that's what the collectivists want.

Now for the second reason that leftists hate the Fifth Commandment: they despise the notion of historic wisdom. Leftists want to remake the world every generation. They want to tear down the old society and its supposedly archaic notions. For the last forty years, America has experimented with the notion of abandoning historic wisdom in favor of the untried and the experimental. America has experimented with the breakdown of the family unit. The result has been a disastrous collapse of our civilized future.

### **Sixth Commandment: You shall not murder.**

It's obvious the left despises this commandment. Preventing murder means individual rather than social justice must rule. In order for collectivists to have their way, they must have utter and complete control of human life. And that means that murder is nothing to

collectivists.

It's considered gauche for many people to speak about abortion. It makes people feel bad; it gives them the "You Ruined My Day Syndrome." Abortion is ugly, cruel, and unpleasant. It gives us an icky feeling inside. But there are no two ways about it: the left's attempt to mainstream abortion represents a direct assault on the Sixth Commandment.

And that mainstreaming can only exist in the absence of countervailing imagery. When I attended the 2012 DNC, I saw one of the most perverse visuals of my life: a young guy walking past an anti-abortion rally, wearing a button reading, "I Love Pro-Choice Girls." You can imagine just why this young man loved pro-choice girls. But beyond that, you can also imagine why he walked past the pictures of aborted babies: they were horrifying. They were meant to be horrifying. They were reality.

I'm from California; I grew up in Los Angeles and went to law school in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In areas like LA and Cambridge,

you're reflexively trained to ignore such imagery. Images of butchered fetuses are gross, rude. Except that they are reality. And abortion is indeed murder. Collectivists *must* demean the value of human life so that everybody just becomes a scrambled egg in the omelet they're cooking.

And so abortion becomes not just an acceptable ill but an affirmative good. The government gets to define life by refusing to define it, by suggesting that you can individually decide whether an incipient human life is a human being or not depending on what you ate for breakfast. That was precisely the argument of slaveholders in the pre-Civil War South, where white individuals were allowed to define whether blacks were property or human beings on a given day. It was evil then; this is evil now.

### **Seventh Commandment: You shall not commit adultery.**

The concept of the immorality of adultery is based on the inherent beauty of the difference between the sexes. Adultery is a fundamental

rejection of commitment between a man and a woman; it is a failure to recognize the value of sex in such relationships.

The left actively fights against the value of both sexual differences and sex itself. In the collectivist mindset, everyone is essentially a widget; sexual differences are merely differences between genitalia, nothing more. And those genitalia can be switched and transplanted and moved around using the magical Star-On, Star-Off machines from Dr. Seuss' *The Sneetches*.

Anyone above the age of three with a hint of intellectual honesty recognizes the foolishness of this position. It does not require higher intelligence to recognize the differences between men and women. But by eviscerating those differences, by attempting to destroy those differences, the left makes impossible any lasting relationships between men and women. All relationships are based on understanding. Forcibly removing men's understanding about women and vice versa means relationships become impossible.

Which, of course, is the point. Adultery means nothing for the collectivist because sex means nothing to the collectivist because family means nothing to the collectivist – because, in the end, commitment doesn't mean anything to the collectivist. In fact, commitment is an obstacle to collectivists.

That means more human unhappiness. But, of course, the left does not care about that. When you're pursuing utopia, everyone is either a tool or an obstacle.

To the left, you are a tool, or you are an obstacle.

Your connections to other human beings make you an obstacle.

### **Eighth Commandment: You shall not steal.**

Collectivism is based, by definition, on rejection of this commandment. Collectivism is legalized thievery. If you and I were to form a voting community with Bill Gates, then vote by majority to go to his home, put a gun to his

head, and force him to open his safe and hand over his cash, that would still be stealing. That would make us evil. If you and I were to form a voting community with the local nunnery, vote by majority, and then drive down to that nunnery, put a gun to a nun's head, and drive her over to the local Rite-Aid to buy ourselves condoms, we'd be the editorial board of *The New York Times*. Or the four-member minority of the Supreme Court. Or the President of the United States.

Stealing is evil. That means that collectivism is evil. Just because you believe you have the right to something does not mean you have the right to steal it from your neighbors.

**Ninth Commandment: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**

Lies mean nothing to collectivists. As Dennis Prager has pointed out, truth is not a leftist value.

Leftists have higher values than truth. They value equality; they value fairness. They do not value truth. Leftist politicians have no problem



lying directly to Americans, because they feel that if Americans must be manipulated for the higher goal, that's perfectly acceptable.

Truth is something that individuals owe one another. Collectivism does not believe that anything is owed to the individual. Lies told to individuals are morally acceptable so long as they forward the collective. In the moral view, I owe you the truth. In the collectivist view, all is owed to the State. That's because the State is good, while you are evil.

This is why the Obama administration is so comfortable lying directly to Americans. After all, we are but malleable tools in their hands, useful for crafting a better tomorrow – so long as we remain in the dark, silent.

**Tenth Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's house, his wife, his male or female servant, his ox, or his ass.**

Some of this commandment seems specifically to refer to Bill Clinton.

As a general matter, jealousy is the basic

root of collectivism. Collectivism suggests that your neighbor's property is yours; therefore, you would not be wrong to covet his property, since it is actually *your* property. In Judaism, you are permitted to covet property *like* your neighbor's – you're allowed to feel that you want a Jaguar just like Bob next door. But you're not allowed to covet Bob's Jaguar.

Collectivism believes precisely the opposite. The left's obsession with income inequality, for example, is a perfect example of their belief in coveting your neighbor's property. No one is hurt because the man living next to them is wealthy. But the left doesn't believe that. The left would rather that both you and your neighbor are poor than that your neighbor be rich and you be middle class. The left does not want people to rise from poverty. The left wants the people to universally sink into poverty in order to empower the State.

Most Americans would rather live next door to Bill Gates in a really nice house and experience that sort of massive income inequality than be completely broke – and income equal – in Detroit. The left doesn't feel that way. They would rather

that you be jealous of Bill Gates' wealth than worry about growing your own. Because so long as you are worried about growing your own wealth and unbothered by Bill Gates growing his, the State loses.

## **Conclusion**

Collectivism loses in the long run. It is ineffective. It collapses in on itself.

But it wins in the short run, because collectivism speaks its own moral language. In the collectivist view, we are bad; we are obstacles to paradise. They are good; they are standing up for rights, even if they have to quash us in order to achieve those rights. The left speaks the language of morality; we speak the language of efficiency. And so we lose.

We can win, however, if we recognize collectivism for what it is: a great moral blight. An evil.

When I compare some folks in America today with collectivists of the past, some people

become uncomfortable. Except that one of the slogans of the 2012 DNC, placed on the big screen, was this: "Government Is The Only Thing We All Belong To." The Obama campaign actually had to disown the slogan after public outcry.

But it is what they believe.

I'm a new father. I have a beautiful baby – polls show she is the single most beautiful baby on the planet. The science is settled, as they say. One night recently, my wife and I were having trouble getting her to sleep. And, as with all new parents, we began to freak out because we had no idea what to do.

I went into the room where she was tossing and turning. I put my hand on her tiny chest, and I rocked her back and forth.

Now, I'm not the most emotionally open fellow. I've never been given a sensitivity award. But as I sat there, rocking my baby, I found myself crying.

That's because it occurred to me that there's

going to come a point when she is crying, when she is in need, and I will not be there to rock her to sleep. There will be a point, decades from now, when there is a problem in her life, and I won't be there to solve it. She must have the freedom and the capacity and the will to solve problems for herself. To act as an individual. To do the right thing.

Evil enervates us. Evil takes that power, that freedom away from us. It takes away our ability, our will. It saps us of our God-given capacity to solve problems on our own and to make the world a better place, and to rock our children to sleep at night. Because, after all, that's not our job -- it takes a village.

Freedom is about the future. It's about what we want to give our kids. Our job is to fight collectivist evil. Yes, freedom succeeds, and freedom wins -- but only if we fight.

We should not fear. The Ten Commandments come along with a whole set of volumes. We learn in Isaiah 8:10: "Devise your strategy but it will be thwarted, propose your plan but it will not stand, for God is with us."

And God *is* with us. He is with us, and God will be with us for so long as we forge forth to fight for the freedom that he granted us, and that no man or government can take away.

























































































































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