Absolute Commandments

Exodus 19:10-25, 20:1-21; Romans 3:19 Life of Moses

Shift in America's Core Values

- Patriotism: Dropped from 70%–75% down to 38%
- Religion: Dropped from 62%–73% down to 39%
- Having Children: Dropped from 59% down to 30%
- Community Involvement: Dropped from 47% down to 27%

  Money/Material Well-being: Rose in relative importance as traditional communal markers declined

The Evolution of Moral Acceptability

- Gay and Lesbian Relations: 71%
- Divorce and Unmarried Parenthood: 81%

- Pre-marital and Extramarital Norms: 75%

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness
Isaiah 5:20

See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father.
1 John 2:24

God demonstrates His power and authority before He gives the law.
And the Lord said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Have them wash their clothes **Exodus 19:10**

God shows His power and authority
On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning,

with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled. **Exodus 19:16**

The People were afraid
Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the Lord descended on it in fire. **Exodus 19:17-18**

The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, the whole mountain trembled violently, and the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder. **Ex. 19:18-19**

The first step in a right relationship with God is fear.
"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and

knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. **Proverbs 9:10**

Fear is a legitimate motive for obeying authority.

Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning." **Exodus 20:20**

"There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."
"There is no fear of God before their eyes." **Romans 3:10-12, 18**

God is the ultimate authority and power

- God flooded the world for sin in Noah's Day

- God rained fire and brimstone on Sodom
- Daniel spoke of the Great and dreadful God

Christ will wreak vengeance on those who do not obey

God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.
2 Thessalonians 1:6-7

He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at

among all those who have believed. **2 Thess. 1:8-10**

Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere him. **Psalm 33:8**

It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.
Hebrews 10:31

Our love for God begins with a healthy respect for His authority over us.
There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear **1 John 4:8**

1. Man's relationship to God
The first four Commandments

"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your

soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." **Mark 12:28-31**

"You shall have no other gods before me.
"You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.
Exodus 20:3-4

"You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. **Exodus 20:7**

Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.
Matthew 5:37

"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. **Exodus 20:8**

After the Resurrection,
The First Day of the Week is Worship for the Christian

- Old Testament Sabbath, rest from creation
- Christian celebrates redemption, on first day
- Jesus arose from the grave on the first day
- Church started on Pentecost, the first day
- Acts 20:7, Christians worshipped on first day
- 1 Corinthains 16:2, take up an offering, first day

Don't let anyone judge you over the Sabbath day

Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. **Colossians 2:16-17**

2. Man's relationship with his fellow man

The last six Commandments

"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you. **Exodus 20:12**

"You shall not murder. **Ex. 20:13**

"Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man. **Genesis 9:6**

"You shall not commit adultery. **Exodus 20:14**

"You shall not steal. **Exodus 20:15**

"You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. **Ex. 20:16**

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. **Psalm 19:7-8**

" 'Make an altar of earth for me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, your sheep and goats and your cattle. Wherever I cause my name to be honored, I will come to you and bless you. **Exodus 20:24**

The primary purpose of the giving of the Ten Commandments was not to make people better.

The primary purpose of the Ten Commandments was to make people aware that they were sinful and needed a Savior.

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.
Romans 3:19-20

We know what the message of the Law is, to those who live under it—that every excuse may die on the lips of him who makes it and no

living man may think himself beyond the judgment of God. No man can justify himself before God by a perfect performance of the Law's demands—indeed it is the straight-edge of the Law that shows us how crooked we are.
Romans 3:19-20
(J.B. Phillips paraphrase)

But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference,
Romans 3:21-22

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a

sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. **Romans 3:23-25**

Three Lessons to Remember

1. God is in charge—Respect His authority.
2. God's Word is absolute—Be obedient to His commands.
3. Christ can forgive—Repent. Be submissive to Him and be cleansed.