

Editorial: We are expected to be a voice for the voiceless

February 26, 2026

Being a voice for the voiceless requires several things, starting with understanding God's character and expectations.

Voices: The significance of Black hymns for all Christians

February 26, 2026

Dr. Roy Cotton Sr. shares the significance of Black hymns and hymnodists to the musical and devotional life of Baptists and all Christians.

Voices: Sharia law and championing religious liberty

February 26, 2026

Jack Goodyear calls Christians not to participate in fearmongering but to embody the gospel by standing with religious minorities.

Voices: Ten Commandments law and adult hypocrisies

February 26, 2026

The Ten Commandments are ["ordered" by law](#) to be posted in Texas public schools.

The intent? Because we supposedly "support Judeo-Christian values."

Yet, the Ten Commandments are Mosaic, not Christian. Lawmakers intend Christian influence, which actually violates the intent of the Mosaic law that for 4,000 years was meant to be wholly followed—a whole package—not merely the Top 10.

While revered by all as God's word and something most people cherish, ordering the posting of the Ten Commandments exposes adult hypocrisies in both lawmakers and schools who do not want to support the whole Mosaic law.

The intent of posting the Ten? To help elementary school kids know they are not to murder, steal, or commit adultery? Or to help high school students know the school demands they have only one God?

Even a casual reader of Deuteronomy cannot escape Moses' pleading many times for Israel to keep the whole law. For example, Deuteronomy 4:1-2 begins: "Follow them. ... Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it." Moses repeats that in many ways for 34 chapters.

Moses meant the whole law, from which the Ten were carved and

representative. The Ten were even placed in the ark, not posted, while the whole law was written and taught.

When you see the Ten Commandments posted anywhere, if you respect Moses' words in Deuteronomy, then you see the Ten as inextricably, inseparably, intrinsically, indistinguishably, and indissolubly part of the whole Mosaic law—a whole package in which the Ten rest.

What the whole Mosaic law requires

Consider the following laws from Deuteronomy:

If a son will not obey his parents, then the elders of the city are to stone that son to death (21:18-21).

If there is no proof of a bride's virginity, she is to be stoned to death—part of the “law” posted in our schools that no one followed then and will go to prison for today (22:20-21).

If a man rapes a virgin pledged to be married, he is to pay the father 50 shekels, about \$15 today (22:23-24). Oh, yes, a lot of men in Texas prisons wish Dan Patrick and Ken Paxton were truly serious about that part of Moses' law advocated in posting the Ten Commandment.

If two men are fighting and the wife grabs the assailant's privates, we must cut off the wife's hand and “show no pity” (25:11-12).

Moses repeats: “The Lord your God commands you this day to follow these decrees and laws; carefully observe them with all your heart and with all your soul” (26:16).

Posting the Ten advocates the whole, if one reads what Moses said. Moses closed with a chapter of curses upon those who fail to obey the whole. Did our Texas lawmakers forget Moses' chapter full of curses for not following

the whole?

Clearly, few of the laws were followed in Moses' or in Jesus' time, and no one today wants to follow all of the Mosaic law. No one. Several are even illegal today.

Hypocrisy of Ten Commandments law

Why not make it a law to "love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself?" Order "love?" Ha!

The more practical words of Jesus' summation of the law into two commands and his immensely useful Golden Rule—"Do unto others as you would have them do to you"—are so valued, they need no law. They are nearly universal to all religions and dearly loved.

Seriously, only the weird would try to encode "love."

No one in their right moral mind would order "love." Love can never be ordered. To order schools to post "Love Others Like Yourself" actually cheapens the very words and reveals a moral superiority alien to Jesus' purest intent.

Worse than ordering "love," posting the Ten Commandments with no intent to follow the whole demeans the Ten and makes the host schools hypocritical to Moses' intent and, with respect to Moses' meaning, obligates those schools to support the ugliest killings totally illegal today.

Worse, the posting law is hypocritical to old Texas laws—perhaps naïvely—making hypocrites of the "biblical" lawmakers.

Worst of all, the Texas law subverts Jesus' summary and his codicil in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) that clearly says, "Forgive," and goes against the Mosaic law of "take a tooth for a tooth."

There is no one in Texas who wants to follow the whole Mosaic law. Yet, the majority of Moses' words were thrown out by the Texas legislature while they surgically clipped for special attention the Ten, with no intention of giving the whole credibility.

That encoding makes our schools a mockery *if* an intelligent student asked about why Texas wants to kill girls who are not virgins or stone to death young boys. Very serious affairs.

What our kids deserve

That is sad and ironic, given *Texas Monthly's* most recent "Bum Steer Awards," including a "Top Ken List" about our Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and U.S. senator wannabe.

The list includes Texas State Senator Angela Paxton divorcing the attorney general on "biblical grounds" and a jab at Angela by Ken's mistress. There is a stupendous irony in Paxton filing a state lawsuit to post the Ten while boldly violating one.

Our kids deserve more integrity than to be forced to participate in adult hypocrisies, or worse, to be a part of the school's endorsing the Ten which are a curse-bound part of a whole with laws all find heinous.

Michael Maness retired after 20 years as a Texas prison chaplain and is the author of many [articles and books](#). He holds a Master of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. The views expressed in this opinion article are those of the author. A version of this article previously appeared in the Tyler County Booster.

Commentary: We need an Evangelical Board of Peace

February 26, 2026

Wissam al-Saliby, 21Wilberforce president, proposes the formation of an Evangelical Board of Peace as an embodiment of God's righteousness.

Editorial: Ash Wednesday's word for current elections

February 26, 2026

Ash Wednesday has a word for us as we vote in the primary elections this year. We should heed its message and put it into practice.

Voices: Christian citizenship

amid immigration fears

February 26, 2026

In response to immigration concerns, Joel Suárez reminds the church to be formed by its citizenship in God's kingdom.

Voces: Ciudadanía cristiana en una era de miedo a la inmigración

February 26, 2026

En respuesta a las preocupaciones migratorias, Joel Suárez recuerda a la iglesia que debe formarse por su ciudadanía en el reino de Dios.

Commentary: When the church picks teams

February 26, 2026

In response to Christians choosing political sides, Nick Acker calls them back to unified love and community as Christian witness.

Editorial: How not to diminish God's image

February 26, 2026

In the beginning, we were created in God's image. Rather than diminish God's image in each other, let's see it and celebrate it.

Voices: Our witness requires courageous response to racism

February 26, 2026

Wade Berry responds to the racist video posted on President Donald Trump's Truth Social account and calls Christians to God-honoring response.

Voices: Bad Bunny, belonging,

and my Baptist upbringing

February 26, 2026

Chris Seay sees Bad Bunny's Super Bowl halftime performance as a celebration of diversity the church and the nation can appreciate.