

Oh, My: All These Laws

In their cartoon, Frank and Ernest are standing in front of row after row of shelves of books. On top of one of the shelves is a sign that reads: *Law Library*.

Frank turns to Ernest and says, “It’s frightening when you think that we started out with just Ten Commandments.”

It is sort of frightening, isn’t it? We started out with 10, and now we have an estimated 35 million laws on the books in the United States alone. Some of them are very good and deeply needed. But there are some that probably should be repealed. For example ...



- Did you know there is a law in Florida that makes it illegal for a woman who’s single, divorced or widowed to parachute out of a plane on Sunday afternoon?
- In Amarillo, Texas, it is against the law to take a bath on the main street during banking hours.
- In Portland, Oregon, it is illegal to wear roller skates in public restrooms.
- In Halethorpe, Maryland, a kiss lasting more than a second is an illegal act.
- And in St. Louis, there used to be a law that if your automobile spooked a horse, you had to hide the car. And if hiding didn’t work, you had to start dismantling it until the horse calmed down.

One must wonder what circumstances led to the passage of such laws in the first place, particularly when much more pressing issues must be dealt with.

Jesus was confronted by a scribe who wanted to know which of the Ten Commandments is the most important. He wasn’t trying to trap Jesus; he wasn’t trying to be impertinent. This scribe was a seeker. He wanted to know which one of the commandments would get him closer to God.

It appears that he was running a sort of spiritual checkup on himself. Jesus responded:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets (Matthew 22:37-40 NKJV).

In the great scheme of things, these are the laws that really matter.

– Beecher Hunter