

Nine Takeaways from the Debriefing on Situationism

Here are nine things we need to understand about the Ten Commandments, situationism, and how we as Christians need to respond to the challenges before us. When we comprehend these items, we also will understand to a far greater degree the damage that situation ethics has done in America. Further, we'll be better equipped to bring our nation back to rest on a solid foundation.

- **First, the Ten Commandments constitute a set of absolute standards.** Absolute standards are standards that apply to everyone, everywhere, at all times, and under all circumstances.
- **Second, adherence to the Ten Commandments on the part of a people makes order in society possible.**
- **Third, because adherence to the Commandments makes order possible, it makes freedom possible, as well.**
- **Fourth,** significantly, God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses right after releasing His people from bondage in Egypt. **The people** were moving from slavery to freedom — but they **couldn't enjoy true freedom as a nation if they didn't honor and obey God's law.** In other words, to experience true freedom and liberty, you need to live under God's law.
- **Fifth, yes, God's law is restrictive, because it prohibits certain actions. However, these same prohibitions protect us from others who might violate our rights and thereby restrict our freedoms.** Unhooking society from a fixed ethical standard like the Ten Commandments invites anarchy in — and anarchy and societal chaos have been invading America increasingly in recent decades. As a result, we are losing our basic freedoms.
- **Sixth, even if he never realized it, Joseph Fletcher didn't just target absolute ethical principles like the Ten Commandments, but also the God who wrote them and gave them to Moses.**
- **Seventh, either *God is* or *God isn't*,** to use terminology that Dr. James Dobson used in *Children at Risk*, a book he co-authored with Gary Bauer in 1990. [*Children at Risk: The Battle for the Hearts and Minds of Our Kids*, (Dallas: Word Publishing, 1990), 19-21.] The choice of one or the other of each of these primary assumptions determines nearly everything else about how one views the world and the choices one makes in life.
- **Eighth, for those who believe God is, the solution is, as Schaeffer and Koop have said, to return to an understanding of right and wrong, of absolute truth, and to encourage society also to return.**
- **Ninth, Christians must understand the importance of worldviews, including the necessity of having and living according to a biblical one. This is especially essential for Christian families as they seek to shape the lives of members of the next generation.**