

Living the Truth

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES FOR MY LIFE IN CHRIST

My love to God, and my Saviour Jesus Christ

- 1 I must love the Lord my God with all my heart and soul and mind and strength. This is the first and greatest commandment, for all that follows is included in this.
- 2 The service of God must be first in my life. Nothing else is more important.
- 3 It should be my constant desire to do all the Lord's work as faithfully and as diligently as possible.
- 4 I must fear him who will utterly destroy the disobedient and the unfaithful.

My worship with the Ecclesia

- 5 I must be faithful in my remembering of Jesus at the weekly Breaking of Bread. Nothing but sheer inability to get there should keep me from this service.
- 6 I should be at the meeting early and see that the meeting starts promptly. Slackness does not honour Christ.
- 7 I should meet my brethren and sisters with a warm, friendly, cheerful greeting.
- 8 In all the services I should try to concentrate with an alert mind on all that is said and done.
- 9 If called upon to pray in public, I should pray humbly and in simple language.
- 10 By giving generously to the ecclesial collection, I am giving to the Lord.
- 11 I should put all possible effort and care into my preparation for ecclesial duties.

My Private Worship

- 12 I must pray on my own, every morning and night at least.
- 13 I must thank God for everything, even the most ordinary things, and say a short grace for every meal.
- 14 I must read the scriptures thoughtfully every day, thanking God for them and asking Him to help me to understand them better.
- 15 By learning a number of Bible passages, I shall become able to make my own witness for Christ in daily conversation.

My Duty to Everyone

- 16 Knowing how undeserving I am of the kindness of God has shown to me, I must always seek to be kind to others even though I may think them undeserving.
- 17 I must always be ready to help those in need, remembering the Good Samaritan.
- 18 I must give all the loving care I can to the sick and aged, the fatherless and the widow, especially those in the ecclesia.
- 19 I should always pay bills promptly.
- 20 I should not try to force anybody to return any possessions of mine which they have borrowed or stolen.
- 21 I should pray even for those who make themselves my enemies, whether in things big or small. I should respond to their evil behaviour with goodness.
- 22 My Lord's own example forbids me to use force or violence in any way.
- 23 I should always be courteous, even when strongly provoked, and avoid all rough
- 24 My everyday dealings should be strictly honest and fair. I should have nothing to do with the dishonest business practices that are common in the world.
- 25 In all things I must do to others as I would wish them to do me.

1. Mark 12: 30 2. Matt 6: 33 3. Matt 24: 45-47, Acts 20: 28 4. 2 Thess 1: 7-9, Matt 10: 28, Matt 25: 30 5. Matt 26: 26,28, 1 Cor 11: 23-26, Acts 2: 42, Acts 20: 7
6. Rom 12: 11, 1 Cor 14: 40 7. John 13: 34, Rom 12: 10, Eph 5: 2, Col 3: 14, 1 Thess 4: 9 8. 1 Cor 10: 31, 1 Cor 11: 29 9. Eph 6: 18, Phil 4: 6, Col 4: 2, Ecc 5: 2
10. 2 Cor 8: 12-15, 2 Cor 9: 6,7 11. 1 Tim 4: 12-16, 2 Tim 2: 15 12. Luke 18: 1, Matt 7: 7, Matt 6: 9-13 13. Eph 5: 20, Col 3: 15-17, 1 Thess 5: 18, Heb 13: 15
14. John 5: 39, Acts 17: 11, Acts 20: 32 15. 1 Peter 3: 15, Col 4: 6 16. Matt 5: 44-48 17. Luke 10: 30-37, 1 John 3: 17, James 2: 15,16
18. Romans 12: 13, 2 Cor 9: 6-8, Heb 13: 16 19. Rom 13:8 20. Luke 6:35 21. Luke 23: 34, Matt 5: 44, 1 Cor 4: 12,13, 1 Peter 3: 9, Rom 12: 21
22. Matt 5: 39, Matt 26: 52, Rom 12: 17-19 23. 1 Peter 3: 8,9, Heb 12: 14 24. Rom 12:17 25. Matt 7:12

My Special Duty to my Brethren and Sisters

- 26 I should try always to see the best in others and not the worst.
- 27 I must not be easily offended, but rather remember how much I have been forgiven by God.
- 28 I should accept rebuke patiently and humbly.
- 29 I must be ready to forgive with all my heart any offence against myself. God will not forgive me unless I do.
- 30 Fighting and cursing must have no part in my life in Christ - only the world does such things.
- 31 I need to take care that weaker brethren and babes in Christ are not caused to stumble by anything I do or say.

Relationships with my Friends and Family

- 32 I need to be careful about the company I keep. Some friends would help me, but others would only hinder me in my efforts to follow Christ.
- 33 I should seek the company and fellowship of brethren and sisters and choose my friends in the ecclesia.
- 34 I must avoid fornication and adultery, even though the world may think them natural. Sex outside marriage is abomination in the eyes of the Lord and is degrading of my body, which I should consider the temple of God. I must tell friends who seek to tempt me that I will have nothing to do with that kind of life.
- 35 If I am an unmarried person, holiness and loyalty to Christ demands that I should marry only in the Lord. It would be foolish for me to yoke myself for life with an unbelieving partner.
- 36 If I am a husband, I should be kind and considerate to my wife, not sparing myself in any effort for her, even as Christ gave himself in sacrifice for the church.
- 37 If I am a wife, I am to acknowledge my husband as head of the family, even as the church is submissive and obedient to Christ its Lord.
- 38 Divorce is not even to be thought of : "what therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder".
- 39 If I am a parent, I should never relax my efforts in training my children in the knowledge of the Gospel and in good behaviour. I should take care that I do not make my children resentful of the way they are treated in the home.
- 40 As a son or daughter, I should be obedient to my parents, whether they are in the Lord or not, unless they tell me to do something against the commands of Christ. I should give them proper respect, and not answer back.

My Daily Work

- 41 If I am an employer, I should be kind, just and considerate to my workpeople and servants.
- 42 If I am in the employment of others, I am to give faithful, diligent service. I must still do this even when the employer does not give what I consider to be fair conditions or fair wages.
- 43 I must not help myself to my employer's property; I should not take even the smallest thing without asking permission first.

26. Matt 7: 12, Luke 6: 41, 1 Cor 13: 4,5 27. Matt 5: 23,24, Col 3: 12-14 28. Heb 13: 22, Heb 12: 1-11, 2 Cor 7: 8-11 29. Matt 18: 21,22,35, Eph 4: 31-32

30. Titus 3: 2, 2 Tim 2: 24 31. Rom 14: 13,21, 1 Cor 8: 13, Matt 18: 6 32. 1 Cor 15: 33, 1 Cor 5: 6, Phil 4: 8

33. 1 Peter 4: 3-5, Eph 5: 6-8, Acts 2: 42, Heb 10: 24-25 34. 1 Cor 5: 9-11, 1 Cor 6: 13,18,19, Eph 5:3, 1 Thess 4: 3, Matt 5: 28 35. 1 Cor 7: 39, 2 Cor 6: 14

36. Eph 5: 25, Col 3: 19, 1 Peter 3: 7 37. Eph 5: 22-24, Col 3: 18, 1 Peter 3: 1 38. Matt 19: 4-6, 1 Cor 7: 10,11 39. Eph 6: 4, Col 3: 21

40. Eph 6: 1,2, Col 3: 20 41. Col 4: 1, Eph 6: 9 42. Col 3: 22-25, Eph 6: 5 43. Titus 2: 9,10, Col 3: 22-25

Principles for my Ecclesial Life

- 44 I should imitate the best examples I know in the church.
- 45 I should always assist the preaching of the Gospel in every way I can, especially by supporting all the meetings. I should speak to others freely at every opportunity about the Hope which I have and which is so precious to me.
- 46 I need to beware of false teachers and test all that I hear by the Word of Truth.
- 47 Complaining and grumbling do much harm. If something is so wrong that I feel I cannot ignore or forget it, I must speak to the person concerned. If he does not take any notice, I must go again with an adviser. If there is still no progress, I should then lay the matter before the ecclesia.
- 48 If I nurse a grudge or resentment against anyone, refraining from the Breaking of Bread is no remedy. The only way is to ask God to remove the resentment from my heart.
- 49 When in the wrong about any matter, I ought to admit this freely, and ask forgiveness.
- 50 Quarrelling must not enter into my ecclesia. We are all one family in the Lord. Even feelings of bitterness are wrong.
- 51 I should help to prevent the formation of parties or groups in the ecclesia. Is Christ divided?
- 52 There is no race or class divisions in Christ. This is a thing God hates.

Keeping myself unspotted from the world

- 53 I should always avoid things which may provoke evil thoughts - bad films, magazines or books or any kind of low talk.
- 54 My speech should be kept free from blasphemy and rough language. God can hear my every word.
- 55 Gossip and slander are great evils, and I should avoid them altogether.
- 56 Deceit and dishonesty even in little things are wrong. I must keep them out of my life.
- 57 I should not sue anyone in court. This is the way of the world. The way of Christ is to suffer wrong.
- 58 As a follower of Christ, I can have no part in elections and worldly politics, for politics mean faith in men - and my faith should be in God and His coming Kingdom.
- 59 Since I have given my allegiance to Christ and have been commanded to live at peace with all men, I must not join the armed forces or police or take part in any military activity.
- 60 As a follower of Christ, I can have no part in the Masonic brotherhood or any similar society. We have a greater fellowship which is not of this world.
- 61 I must guard against worldly ambition and against its evil effects upon my spiritual life and ecclesia service.
- 62 Drunkenness is wrong and forbidden. My mind should always be clear to think on holy things and not muddled with drink.
- 63 I must keep the law of my country with scrupulous care, in the smallest as well as the big things. Only when it insists that I do things contrary to Christ is it right for me to disobey.

44. 1 Cor 11: 1, Phil 3: 17, Heb 13: 7 45. Luke 12: 8, Mark 8: 38, 2 Tim 1: 8 46. 1 Thess 5: 21, 2 Peter 2: 1, Matt 24: 24 47. Phil 2: 14,15, Matt 18: 15-17

48. 1 Cor 4: 5, James 3: 14-15, 1 John 4: 20,21 49. James 5: 16, Psalm 32: 5 50. Eph 4: 29,31,32, Col 4: 6, Titus 2: 7,8 51. 1 Cor 1: 12,13, 1 Cor 3: 3,4, Phil 2: 1-3

52. Gal 3: 28, Rev 7: 9, Acts 10: 34,35, James 2: 8,9 53. Phil 4: 8, Eph 5: 3-4, Rom 1: 28-32, 1 Peter 2: 11 54. Eph 4: 29, Col 3: 8, Matt 5: 37, Matt 12: 36

55. Titus 3: 2, Eph 4: 31,32 56. Titus 1: 10, 1 Peter 2: 1,21,22, Acts 5: 1-11, Rev 22: 15 57. 1 Cor 6: 1-7, Matt 5: 38-42

58. 2 Cor 6: 14-18, 1 Peter 2: 11,12, 1 John 1: 6, 1 John 2: 15, John 18: 36 59. Matt 26: 52, John 18: 36 60. 1 Cor 10: 20,21, 2 Cor 6: 14,15, 1 John 1: 3

61. 1 Tim 6: 10, 2 Tim 3: 1,2 62. Rom 13: 13,14, 1 Thess 5: 6,7, Eph 5: 18 63. Rom 13: 1-7, Peter 2: 13,14, Titus 3: 1

Making my Life Holy before God

- 64 I constantly need to strive against the lusts of the flesh, and should not allow myself to be discouraged in this by the attitude of those around me.
- 65 It is wrong to give way to hasty temper. If I have one, I must constantly fight to control it.
- 66 I must always speak the truth. Lying is a great evil. The consequence of the serpent's lie in Eden are still with us.
- 67 All that I do and say should show that I am a disciple of Jesus, and I should always be on my guard against denying him.
- 68 I must not envy those who seem better off than myself.
- 69 I should acknowledge the Father's control and providence in my life by saying, "If the Lord will", "God willing", "By God's grace".
- 70 I should keep Jesus always in mind. Especially when faced with a difficulty, I should ask myself, "What would Jesus do?"
- 71 In all things I must aim at purity and holiness, and so please my Master in heaven.
- 72 I believe the coming of my Lord is near. I must live as one who really believes it.

How God will Help me

- 73 I must never be satisfied with my efforts to please God. I am weaker than I like to admit.
- 74 I should frequently ask God to strengthen me so that I may do better. Great help will be given to those who ask for it.
- 75 Even if I have been weak and sinned badly, I should not become discouraged and give up. If I am truly sorry for what I have done, and am determined to do better in future, God will forgive me and help me to try again.

64. Gal 5: 16,24 , 2 Tim 2: 22 , James 1: 3,4 65. James 1: 19,20 , Prov 16: 32 , Prov 19: 11 66. Eph 4: 25 , Col 3: 9 , Acts 5: 1-11 , Rev 22: 15

67. Luke 12: 8 , Mark 8: 38 , 2 Tim 1: 8 68. Luke 12: 15 , Matt 6: 19 , Heb 13: 5 69. James 4: 14,15 , Prov 3: 6 70. 1 Peter 2: 21-23 , John 13: 15

71. Rom 6: 19,22 , 1 John 3: 3 , Heb 12: 14 72. Matt 24: 44 , Matt 10: 37,38 , Luke 12: 35-37 , 2 Peter 3: 13,14 73. 1 Cor 10: 12 , Rom 5: 12 , Rom 7: 18-25

74. Phil 4: 6,13 , James 1: 5,6 , 2 Cor 12: 9 , Eph 3: 16 75. Luke 15: 11-32 , 2 Cor 7: 10 , 1 John 1: 9

Proverbs 4

23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

Colossians 3

- 1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.
- 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.
- 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.
- 4 When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.