

The Teaching of the Twelve

*Edited by Jurek Kirakowski
from numerous sources;
"concordat cum originali" etc.
in expression, gender, and
intent, 2009.*

THE TEACHING TO THE NATIONS

CHAPTER 1: THE TWO WAYS; THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

1. There are two ways: one of Life and one of Death, there being great differences between each of them.
2. The way of life is this:
 - First, You must love the One who created you;
 - Second, you must love your neighbour in the same manner as you love yourself. Do not do to others what you yourself would not want done to you.
3. And these are our teachings: **BLESS THE ONES WHO CURSE YOU. PRAY FOR YOUR ENEMIES. FAST FOR YOUR PERSECUTORS.** Do you expect a great reward if you only love those who love you? Do the Gentiles not conduct themselves accordingly? But if you practise love to those who hate you, your enemies will vanish.
4. Refrain from the impulses of your selfish nature and the self-serving world. If someone strikes you on your right cheek, turn the left to be likewise struck. This discipline will lead you to your perfecting. If someone forces you to go one mile in service, go with him a second. If someone robs you of your robe, freely give him your coat. If someone takes anything from you, don't ask that it be returned, for what good would that do anyone?
5. Give to all who ask, and don't expect return; for our Father wills that everyone should receive our gifts freely. Great rewards await anyone who gives according to this commandment; for that person is guiltless. No merit is gained by those who receive but have no need: they will pay the penalty because they received for nothing but greed, and under examination they will be required to divulge everything concerning their choice of actions, and will not be freed from their obligations until everything owed is paid.
6. On the other hand, the one who is in need and receives is guiltless. Let your gifts sweat in your hands, until you find out and discover to whom

it is you should be giving them.

CHAPTER 2: THE SECOND COMMANDMENT; GROSS SIN FORBIDDEN

1. This is the second commandment of the Teaching:
2. You must not murder; nor be given to adultery, nor molest children; nor practise immorality, nor theft; nor be a practitioner of black magic, nor of witchcraft; nor be a terminator of unborn children, nor be involved with infanticide in any way; nor be one who unlawfully seeks to take ownership of the possessions of your neighbour.
3. You must not commit perjury nor swear false testimony, nor speak evil, nor hold grudges.
4. You must not be deceitful nor fickle; for to be fickle is a snare of death.
5. Your speech must never be false, nor meaningless, but be confirmed by action.
6. You must never be greedy; nor accumulate riches; nor be a hypocrite, nor malicious, nor arrogant; nor be given over to plot evil against your neighbour.
7. You must not hate anyone; but some you must correct, and for others pray; and some you must love even more than you love your own life.

CHAPTER 3: OTHER SINS FORBIDDEN

1. My child, turn away from everything evil, even from anything that resembles it.
2. Control your anger: for anger leads to murder. Control your jealousy, and do not bicker, nor be hot-tempered: for all these things are the roots of murder.
3. My child, don't entertain lust, for lust leads to immorality. Do not be foul-mouthed, nor allow your eyes to roam: for all these are the roots of adultery.
4. My child, have nothing to do with fortune telling: for this leads to idolatry. Do not practise spells, nor astrology, nor black magic, nor join with those who go round making a show of these things: for these all lead to idolatry.
5. My child, do not lie: for lying leads to theft. Do not hoard wealth, nor build conceit: for these all lead to theft.
6. My child, do not grumble: for this leads to blasphemy. Do not be arrogant nor evil-minded: for these all lead to blasphemy.
7. Rather, be meek: for they will inherit the Land of Promise.
8. Be humble, patient, merciful, gentle and good, always showing proper respect and reverence for that which you have heard.
9. Never seek self-exaltation, nor be over-confident in your own self. You

must not identify with the upper classes of this world, but with the righteous and humble.

10. Whatever happens to you should be taken as good: after all, we know that nothing can happen without God.

CHAPTER 4: VARIOUS PRECEPTS

1. My child, every night and day remember those who teach you; and honour them.
2. And daily seek the companionship of the saints, so that you may find support in their words.
3. Never cause division, but be an arbiter to those who quarrel. Always judge righteously, never showing partiality when mediating quarrels.
4. Always stand firm in your decisions.
5. Don't be a habitual receiver who is always reluctant to give generously.
6. If you've earned something through your work, your act of giving it away will be weighed as a ransom against your sins.
7. You must not hesitate to give, and do not grumble afterwards, for one day you will face the reward of the Paymaster.
8. Never turn away those in need, but always share all things with your brother and sister, and never say that your possessions are exclusively your own: because if you are sharing in eternal things, how much more so in things that are temporary!
9. Never neglect your responsibilities concerning your son and daughter, but always teach them proper respect from their youth.
10. Never give orders in anger to your servant or maid, especially if they are sharers in hope with you, lest they lose respect for God who is over you both. For He doesn't come to people based on their appearance or standing, but to the ones whom the Spirit has prepared.
11. And your servants and maids must be subject to those above them in respect and fear.
12. You must hate all hypocrisy and everything that is not positive.
13. Never turn away from practising the commandments and always guard what you have received, being careful never to add to nor take away from anything that was received.
14. In the assembly you should confess your transgressions, and be careful never to approach your prayer with an evil conscience. This is the way of Life.

CHAPTER 5: THE WAY OF DEATH

1. The way of Death is this: first of all, it is evil and cursed; full of murders, adulteries, lusts, fornications, thefts, idolatries, magical arts, witchcrafts, robberies, false testimonies, hypocrisy, deceit, arrogance,

depravity, self-will, greed, filthy talk, jealousy, over-confidence, vanity, boasting;

2. Persecutors of all things good, hating truth, loving lies, ignorant of the reward for righteousness, not clinging to good nor righteous judgement, being drawn to evil rather than good; for whom gentleness and endurance are distant strangers; loving vanities, chasing temporary reward, having no mercy for the poor, not working for the afflicted, not knowing their Creator, murderers of children, destroyers of what has been created, turning away from the needy, oppressing the afflicted, prejudiced in favour of the rich and against the poor, utterly sinful. Children, may all of you be delivered from all these abominations.

CHAPTER 6: AGAINST FALSE TEACHERS, AND FOOD OFFERED TO IDOLS

1. Be on your guard, for many would like to lead you away from the way of the Teaching; take no notice of what they tell you is important.
2. If you are able to bear the yoke, you will be perfect; but if you can't, you should make your best effort.
3. And concerning food: eat what is right; but guard that you never eat food from pagan temples, for that is known as worship of the dead.

CHAPTER 7: CONCERNING BAPTISM

1. And concerning baptism, baptise this way: after reviewing all of this teaching, baptise **IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT**, in running water.
2. But if running water is not available, then baptise in other water; and cold is preferred, but if not available, in warm.
3. But if neither is available, pour water three times upon the head **IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT**.
4. But before the baptism, let the overseer fast, and also the one being baptised, and all others who are able; be sure to instruct the one being baptised to fast one or two days before.

CHAPTER 8: CONCERNING FASTING AND PRAYER

1. Be careful not to make your fasts at the times when the hypocrites fast. They fast on the Monday and the Thursday of the week, therefore make your fast on the Wednesday and Friday, the Preparation day.
2. Likewise, don't pray as the hypocrites, but as commanded in the Gospel in this manner:

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN,

YOUR NAME IS HOLY, **YOUR KINGDOM** IS COMING, **YOUR WILL** IS BEING DONE,

ON THE EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.

GIVE US EACH DAY OUR BREAD FOR THE DAY,

AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBT IN THE WAY THAT WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS,

AND DO NOT ALLOW US TO FALL INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL.

FOR **YOURS** IS THE POWER AND THE GLORY FOREVER.

AMEN!

3. Pray in this manner three times per day.

CHAPTER 9: THE THANKSGIVING SACRAMENT

1. Now concerning the Thanksgiving meal, give thanks in this manner.
2. First, concerning the cup:

WE THANK **YOU**, OUR **FATHER**,
 FOR THE HOLY VINE OF **DAVID YOUR** SERVANT,
 WHOM **YOU** MADE KNOWN TO US THROUGH **YOUR** SERVANT;
 MAY THE GLORY BE **YOURS** FOREVER.

3. Concerning the broken bread:

WE THANK **YOU**, OUR **FATHER**,
 FOR THE LIFE AND KNOWLEDGE
 WHICH **YOU** HAVE MADE KNOWN TO US THROUGH **YOUR** SERVANT;
 MAY THE GLORY BE **YOURS** FOREVER.

AS THIS BROKEN BREAD WAS SCATTERED OVER THE MOUNTAINS,
 AND WAS GATHERED TOGETHER TO BECOME ONE,
 SO LET **YOUR** BODY OF THE FAITHFUL BE GATHERED TOGETHER
 FROM THE ENDS OF THE EARTH INTO **YOUR** KINGDOM;
 FOR THE GLORY AND POWER ARE **YOURS** FOREVER.

4. But let no one eat or drink of your Thanksgiving, unless they have been baptised; for concerning this is taught, **DO NOT GIVE WHAT IS HOLY TO DOGS.**

CHAPTER 10: PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

1. After the meal, give thanks in this manner:
2. WE OFFER THANKS, HOLY **FATHER**,
 FOR **YOUR** HOLY NAME WHICH FILLS OUR HEARTS,
 AND FOR THE KNOWLEDGE, FAITH AND ETERNAL LIFE,
 WHICH **YOU** HAVE MADE KNOWN TO US THROUGH **YOUR** SERVANT;

YOURS IS THE GLORY FOREVER.

3. **ALMIGHTY MASTER, YOU** CREATED ALL THINGS FOR **YOUR** OWN PURPOSE;
YOU GAVE MEN FOOD AND DRINK TO ENJOY,
 THAT THEY MIGHT GIVE **YOU** THANKS;
 BUT TO US **YOU** FREELY GIVE SPIRITUAL FOOD AND DRINK,
 AND ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH **YOUR** SERVANT.
4. FOREMOST, WE THANK **YOU** BECAUSE **YOU** ARE MIGHTY;
YOURS IS THE GLORY FOREVER.
5. REMEMBER **YOUR** BODY OF **SERVANTS**,
 TO DELIVER US FROM EVERYTHING EVIL
 AND PERFECT US ACCORDING TO **YOUR** LOVE,
 AND GATHER US FROM THE FOUR WINDS,
 SANCTIFIED FOR **YOUR** KINGDOM WHICH **YOU** HAVE PREPARED FOR US;
 FOR THE POWER AND GLORY ARE **YOURS** FOREVER.
6. LET **YOUR** GRACE COME,
 AND LET THIS WORLD PASS AWAY.
HOSANNA TO THE **GOD** OF **DAVID**!
 MAY ALL WHO ARE HOLY, COME;
 LET THOSE WHO ARE NOT, REPENT.
MARANATHA. AMEN.
7. But permit the prophets to make thanksgiving as they wish.

CHAPTER 11: CONCERNING TEACHERS, TRAVELLERS, AND PROPHETS

TEACHERS:

1. Whoever comes to teach you in accordance with all these things we've written here, receive them.
2. If the teacher themselves goes astray, teaching another doctrine which would undermine this doctrine, do not hear them; but if their teaching provokes you to greater righteousness and increases your knowledge, welcome them.

TRAVELLERS & PROPHETS

3. Concerning travellers and prophets: deal with them according to the decree of our Teaching.

TRAVELLERS:

4. Let every traveller that comes to you be received.
5. But they must not remain longer than one day, unless it is absolutely necessary, in which case they may stay another. But if they stay three days, suspect them of being a false prophet.
6. When the traveller leaves, send them with only bread to sustain them to their next destination. But if they ask for money, be assured that they are a false prophet.

PROPHETS:

7. Do not test or judge any prophet who speaks according to the Spirit.
8. But be warned: not everyone who speaks according to the Spirit is a prophet, but only those who walk in the Spirit. Therefore, it is from the consistency of their behaviours that you can discern the false prophets.
9. And no prophet who commands food to be brought to them in the Spirit will eat from it, unless they are a false prophet.
10. Every prophet will teach the truth, but if they don't practise their own words, they should be regarded as a false prophet.
11. And every prophet who has proven that they are in fact genuine, but whose ideas occasionally appear too worldly when teaching to the body of believers, and yet who scrupulously does not teach others to copy their ideas, shall not be judged negatively among you, for God will judge righteously. This example was set by the ancient prophets.
12. Whoever says in the Spirit, "give me money," or some similar thing, do not listen to them. But if they solicit that you give to the needy, none should judge them.

CHAPTER 12: RECEPTION OF BELIEVERS

1. Everyone who comes should be received, but then you should watch them. Under scrutiny you will gain insight into their character.
2. If they are a traveller, help them according to your ability. But they should not be allowed to stay with you more than two or possibly three days.
3. But if they decide to stay longer, and are a craftsman, put them to work.
4. But if they are not skilled, decide carefully how they should live as a fellow believer among you, making sure that they are not allowed to be idle.
5. But if they don't cooperate, they are a user - even trading on Christ for profit. Beware of such as these.

CHAPTER 13: SUPPORT OF PROPHETS

1. All true prophets who settle among you are deserving of their food.
2. All true teachers are also worthy of their food.
3. For this reason, store all the first-fruits of your wine, grain, cattle, and sheep. Give these to the prophets, for they are your high priests.
4. If a prophet does not reside among you, distribute it to the poor.
5. If you make bread, give the first-fruit according to these instructions.
6. In this manner, when you open a container of wine or oil, give the first-fruit of it to the prophets.
7. And concerning your money, clothing, and all possessions, give the appropriate first-fruit, according to godly discretion, and give according to the instruction.

CHAPTER 14: THE SABBATH ASSEMBLY

1. Every day, gather together, eat a meal, and give thanks after having first confessed your sins, that your sacrifice may be pure.
2. Discourage anyone who has a disputation with their brother or sister to gather with you first, until they are reconciled, so that your sacrifice may not be defiled.
3. For this is the sacrifice that was spoken of in our teaching:
4. **IN EVERY PLACE AND TIME OFFER TO ME A PURE SACRIFICE; FOR I AM A GREAT KING, AND MY NAME IS MARVELLOUS AMONG THE NATIONS.**

CHAPTER 15: BISHOPS AND DEACONS, REPROOF

1. Therefore, appoint for yourselves worthy bishops and deacons. Make sure that they are people who are meek, not lovers of money, but truthful and proven. They will provide among you the service of prophets and teachers.
2. Do not despise them, rather they should be honoured, together with the prophets and teachers.
3. Correct each other in peace, not in anger. But if one among you wrongs another, do not befriend and console the offender, until they reconcile.
4. Concerning your prayers, giving, and works: perform them according to our teachings.

CHAPTER 16: WATCHFULNESS, THE COMING JUDGMENT

1. Guard your lives. Keep your lamps burning, and be ever prepared, for the hour is not known.

2. Gather together frequently, pursuing that which will benefit your souls, otherwise the entire time of your faith will be nearly worthless if you have not persevered to the end.
3. For in the last days false prophets and corrupters will be multiplied, and the sheep will become wolves, and love will be turned into hate.
4. As lawlessness increases, they will hate and persecute and betray one another. And then the deceiver of the world will appear as a son of God, and will perform signs and wonders, and the earth will be delivered into his hands, and he will do abominable things that will surpass all evil done since the beginning.
5. Then all mankind will be tried by fire, causing many to fall away and perish. But those with enduring faith will be saved from it by the One Who was cursed.
6. Then the signs of truth will appear: first, the sign of heaven opening. Then, the sign of the trumpet sounding. And third, the resurrection of the dead.
7. Yet, not of all, but as it is said: **THE JUDGE WILL COME, AND ALL HIS ANGELS.**
8. Then the world will see the judgement coming on the clouds of heaven.