

“The Code of Conduct

for all the members of our United Societies”

or

“The Three Simple Rules for Methodists”

created by founder Rev. John Wesley

[Before there was a separate denomination, Methodism, under the guidance of Rev. John Wesley in 18th Century England, was a series of weekday ‘small groups’ called the ‘United Societies’ within the existing structure of the Church of England.]

The following were the examination questions composed by Wesley. These questions made up the bulk content of these class meetings.

The leaders of each group would help one other stay accountable.

#1: Do No Harm

- Have you been or seemed angry this week?
- Have you enjoyed the company of drunkards or busybodies this week?
- Have you taken the name of God in vain this week?
- Have you, this week, bought or sold hard liquors, or drank them, unless prescribed by a physician?
- Have you bought or sold a slave in this past week?
- Have you fought, quarreled, brawled, gone to the law with a brother?
- Have you returned evil for evil, railing for railing?
- Have you had uncharitable or unprofitable conversation, speaking evil of anyone or anything?
- Did you refrain from mentioning the fault of any behind their back?
- Did you stop those short that do?
- Have you done to another as you would not want them to do unto you?
- Did you do anything that you know is not for the glory of God?
- Did you put on gold and other costly apparel, as to draw unnecessary and vain attention to yourself?
- Have you sung songs or read books which do not tend to the increase of knowledge or love of God?
- Have you borrowed without a probability of repaying?
- Do you refrain from using needless self-indulgences that affect your inward & outward body, unless prescribed by a physician?
- Are you working diligently to abolish all the sin in your life?

ALL: This is my vow: To do no harm and avoid evil of all kinds, especially that which is most commonly practiced.

#2: Do Good

(of every possible sort and to all people,
as far as you have opportunity)

- Did you begin and end every day this week with God?
- Were you attentive to your calling as a disciple?
- Did you employ all spare hours to religion, as able?
- Did you observe all the holy days since we last met?
- Did you examine yourself and your day every night before resting your head?
- Did you ever pass a day without setting aside at least an hour for devotion?
- Did you begin every action in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost?
- Did you begin every important work with prayer?
- Whenever you did an action,
did you consider how God did or would do the like, and do you imitate that?
- Were you honest in both your buying and selling?
- Did you contribute or donate things from your possession,
and that to the uttermost of your power?
- Have you fed the hungry, clothed the naked, visited or help them that are sick
or in prison since we last met?
- Have you instructed the souls of others on the good doctrines of the Church
and the divine laws of God?
- Have you shared the Good News of the gospel of Jesus Christ to any poor soul
whom you have greeted?
- Do you have patterns of diligence & frugality, of self-denial, and taking up the cross daily?

*Do all the good you can, by all the means you can,
in all the ways you can, in all the places you can,
by all the times you can, to all the people you can,
as long as ever you can. -JOHN WESLEY*

**ALL: This is my vow: To do good of every possible sort
to all people, as far as I have opportunity.**

#3: Stay in Love with God

- Do you continue your vow to be at church and at the Lord's table every week and at every public meeting of your class or band group?
- Is your worship heartfelt and genuine?
- Do you use private prayer every day, and family prayer, as able?
- Do you stretch yourself through your prayers as to leave no stone unturned?
- Do you read the Scriptures, and meditate therein, at every vacant hour?
- Do you observe, as days of fasting or abstinence, all Fridays in the year?

**ALL: This is my vow: To stay in love with God
by committing myself to God's People and their holy habits.**

WESLEY'S COVENANT RENEWAL SERVICE

M: God requires that you shall put away all your idols.

**P: From the bottom of my heart, I renounce all my idols,
praying that no known sin shall be allowed in my life.**

M: God wants to guide your life, if you allow it.

**P: Today, before all Heaven and Earth,
I acknowledge You as my Lord and God.
I take You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for my destiny,
to serve You in holiness & righteousness all the days of my life.**

*M: God has given the Lord Jesus Christ
as the only way & means of coming to God.*

**P: Jesus, with bended knees, I do accept You
as the only New and Living Way. I come to You, here,
to acknowledge You as my Savior & Head.**

I renounce my own worthiness, my own wisdom, my own will.

M: Christ has told you that you must suffer with Him.

**P: I shall take my fate with You as it may fall,
for neither life nor death shall part me from You.**

*M: Christ has offered you His teachings and duties
as the Rule for your life.*

**P: I take them as the Rule for my words, thoughts, and actions,
promising to strive to order my whole life according to Your direction.**

M: The Holy Spirit already searches and knows your heart.

**P: If any falsehood should be in my heart,
guide me & help me to set it right.**

WESLEY'S COVENANT PRAYER:

Lord, make me what You will.

Let me be Your servant, under Your command.

I will no longer be my own.

I will give myself over to Your will in all things.

I put myself fully into Your hands:

Put me to doing, put me to suffering,

let me be employed for You, or laid aside for You,

let me be full, let me be empty,
let me have all things, let me have nothing.
Let me be a vessel of silver or gold, or of wood or stone,
just so that I'm a vessel of Your honor.
Whether higher or lower, finer or coarser, I am content.
Wherever You choose me to go, may I be serviceable.
I freely, and with a willing heart,
give it all to Your pleasure and disposal.
O Mighty God, Lord Omnipotent, Father, Son, and Spirit:
You have now become my Covenant Friend.
And I, through Your infinite grace,
have become Your Covenant Disciple. *So be it today!*
And let this covenant I have made on earth be ratified in heaven.
In the name of Christ Jesus: AMEN!

*Make this covenant not only in your hearts & minds, but in word;
not only in word, but in writing.*

*Sign below. Do so reverently, spreading out your name
before the Lord, presenting it as a sign of your vow.*

*Keep this as a reminder of the holy agreement between God & you,
a baptismal transaction that has passed between God & you,
that you may remember it during doubts & temptations.*

*With reverence,
I present my name below
as a sign of my covenant renewal to You,
God Almighty:*

SIGNED: SUNDAY, JANUARY 29TH, 2023