

# GRAND COMMANDERY OF HAWAII

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## ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS

By S.K. John J. Brown, KCT, Right Eminent Grand Commander



ALOHA. Keeping to my theme for this year, **“Onward Christian Soldiers,”** I am writing this article on the teachings of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Over the year I will be writing about the **Beatitudes**. The word beatitude means supreme blessedness. The Beatitudes are eight blessings recounted by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of Matthew.

Each is a proverb-like proclamation. These teachings of virtue and values in life will result in blessings and rewards. Ten Commandments given to Moses on Mount Sinai is a series of **“Thou shalt not”** phrases, evils one must avoid in daily life. The message of Jesus is presented in a positive sense and is one of humility, charity and brotherly love.

His lessons are for the transformation of the inner person, assisting us in the construction of that spiritual building. **“That house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”** These blessings of Jesus provide a way to salvation and bring peace amid our trials and tribulations.

One of the first lessons Masons learn is that Masonry is a beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols. It encourages all that is good, kind and charitable; and reproveth all that is vicious, cruel and oppressive.

The Golden Rule given to us by Jesus at the Sermon on the Mount may be the ultimate, all-encompassing principle for moral behavior. **“Do unto others what you want them to do to you.”**

Another version of the Golden Rule, also given to us by Jesus is, **“Love thy neighbor as thyself.”**

In Masonry we also learn that harmony is the strength and support of all institutions, more especially of ours. Harmony leads to peace and love. Humility is the true test of a man. The Golden Rule promotes both harmony and humility.

The first of the Beatitudes is, **“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.”**

Jesus is telling us to be humble and to realize that all our gifts and blessings come only through God’s grace. The opposite of humility is pride. Whereby, pride can have a positive connotation sometimes, it can also be offensive and contribute to anger and revenge, often leading to hatred.

Besides being Masons, we are also Christian Knights and should live by the teachings of our Savior, as well as our Masonic teachings. Remember, every human being has a claim upon your kind offices. Do good unto all. Live in peace and may the God of love and peace delight to dwell with and bless you.



*The Hawaiian Chapter of the International Order of Demolay with SK Young PC, SK Walch DGC, KCT, and SK Brown REGC, KCT*