

The Confessor's Tongue for October 27, A. D. 2019

19th Sunday after Pentecost; Martyr Nestor

In honor of St. Maximus the Confessor, whose tongue and right hand were cut off in an attempt by compromising authorities to silence his uncompromising confession of Christ's full humanity & divinity.

The Commandments of Christ

"If ye love Me, keep my commandments." John 14:15

Christ's commands are scattered throughout the four Gospels. Some of them are repeated several times each, sometimes in slightly different forms. Some appear only once. As one reads the Gospels, it is useful to mark them so that one may more easily find them.

The following is a list of Christ's commands in the Gospel—just over one hundred in all. I have attempted to gather commands occurring more than once under one point. I have not included the Ten Commandments, which are assumed and upon which some of these are elaborations. These are Christ's. I may have missed a few. There may be a few listings here that can be combined. It is a work in progress.

We shall reflect upon many of these commandments individually in the months ahead, but, using this list, you may yourself begin to read and reflect upon how to apply them in your life.

1. Repent. (Mark 1:15 and believe, Luke 3:8 bear fruits worthy of R, Matthew 4:17)
2. Follow Me. (Matthew 4:19, 8:22, 16:24 Mark 1:17)
3. Deny yourself. (Matt 16:24)
4. Take up your cross. (Matt 16:24)
5. Rejoice and be glad when you are persecuted of Christ's sake. (Matt 5:12, Luke 6:23)
6. Let your light shine before men. (Matt 5:16)
7. Think not that Christ is come to destroy the law and the prophets. (Matt 5:17)
8. If your brother has something against you, forego your worship and first be reconciled. (Matt 5:23-24; Luke 12:58)
9. Do not commit adultery by looking lustfully on another. (Matt 5:27f)
10. Cut off from your body whatever causes you to fall. (Matt 5:30, 18:8-9, Mark 9:43-48)
11. Don't swear oaths, but let your "yes" and "no" suffice. (Matt 5:33-37)
12. Do not resist evil, but go the extra mile to overcome it. (Matt 5:38-41) (three in one)
13. Give to those who ask and do not turn away those who wish to borrow. (Matt 5:42, Luke 6:30, 35)
14. Love your enemies by doing good to them. (Matt 5:44, Luke 6:27)
15. Bless them that curse you. (Matt 5:44, Luke 6:28)
16. Do good to them that hate you. (Mt 5:44, Lk 6:27)
17. Pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you. (Matt 5:44, Luke 6:28)
18. Be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect. (Matt 5:48)
19. Take, eat; this is My body. Drink all of you of it, this is my blood. Do this in remembrance of me. (Matt 26:26-29; Luke 22:17-19; Mark 14:22)
20. Watch, be ready. (Matt 24:42, 24:44, Luke 21:34, Matt 25:13, Mark 13:33, 35-37, Luke 21:36)
21. Watch and pray. (Luke 22:40, Mark 14:38, Luke 22:46, Luke 21:36)
22. Make disciples of all nations. (Matt 28:18-19)
23. Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. (Mark 16:15-18).
24. Make not my Father's house into a house of merchandise. (John 2:16)
25. Marvel not that ye must be born again. (John 3:7)
26. Lift up your eyes and look on the field, for they are white for harvest. (John 4:35)
27. Sin no more, lest a worse thing befall thee. (John 5:14)
28. Search the Scriptures for they testify of Me. (John 5:39)
29. Labor not for the food that perishes but for that which endures to everlasting life which the Son gives you. John 6:27
30. Murmur not among yourselves. John 6:43
31. Judge not according to appearance, but judge righteous judgment. John 7:24
32. Walk while ye have the light. John 12:35
33. Believe in the light while ye have the light that ye may be children of light. John 12:36
34. Wash one another's feet. John 13:14
35. A new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. John 13:34, 15:12, 15:17
36. Let not your heart be troubled, believe in God and in Me. John 14:1, 14:27
37. Believe Me that I am in the Father and He in me. John 14:11
38. If ye love me, keep My commandments. John 14:15
39. Abide in Me and I in you. John 15:4, 15:9
40. Ask and ye shall receive that your joy may be full. John 16:24
41. Be of good cheer: I have overcome the world. John 16:33
42. Receive ye the Holy Spirit. John 20:22
43. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. Matt 6:33, Luke 12:31
44. Forgive others if you wish to be forgiven. Matt 6:12, 14-15, Luke 6:37
45. Don't give alms to impress others, but give them secretly. Matt 6:3-4
46. Pray secretly in the closet, not in public to impress. Matt 6:7-8
47. Don't use vain repetitions in prayer.
48. Fast maintaining your normal appearance.
49. Don't lay up treasure on earth but do lay it up in heaven. Matt 6
50. Don't worry about your life what to eat or drink or wear. Matt 6:25, 34; Luke 12:22
51. Don't judge. Matt 7:1, Luke 6:37
52. Don't give holy things to dogs or pearls to swine. Matt 7
53. Keep asking, seeking, knocking. Matt 7, Luke 11:9

54. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Matt 7:14
55. Enter through the narrow gate, not the broad one. Matt 7:13, Luke 13:24
56. Beware of false prophets. Matt 7:15
57. Pray that the Lord of the harvest will send laborers into His harvest. Matt 9:38
58. Beware of men. Mat 10:17
59. Think not that I've come to send peace upon earth. Matt 10:34
60. Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden. Matt 11:28
61. Take my yoke upon you and learn of Me. Matt 11:29 or 39
62. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. Matt 15:14
63. Take heed and beware the leaven of the Scribes and Pharisees. Matt 16:6, Luke 20:6-7
64. Take heed not to despise one of these little ones. Matt 18:10
65. If your brother sins, confront him privately, take witnesses, take it to church. Matt 18:15-27
66. Let not man put asunder what God hath joined together in marriage. Matt 19:6
67. Permit the little children to come to Me. Matt 19:14
68. Sell all, give to poor, follow me to be perfect. Matt 19:21, Luke 18:22
69. Whoever would be great, let him be your servant and ministry. Matt 20:26-28
70. Render to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's. Matt 22:21
71. Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart. Matt 22:36-40
72. Love your neighbor as yourself. Matt 22:36-40
73. Do what the Scribes and Pharisees say, not as they do. Matt 23:2-9
74. Call no man "father". Matt 23:9
75. Take heed that no man deceives you. Matt 24:9, Luke 21:8
76. Don't believe it when someone says "Christ is here or there." Matt 24:23
77. Let him who has ears to hear, hear. Mark 4:9, 4:23, 7:14, 7:16, Luke 8:8, 14:35
78. Have salt in yourselves and peace with one another. Mark 9:50
79. Have faith in God. Mark 11:22
80. Whatever you desire, pray, believe, receive. Mark 11:24
81. Condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned. Luke 6:37
82. Give and it will be given to you. Luke 6:38
83. Be careful how you hear.
84. Let the dead bury the dead; go thou and preach the Kingdom of God. Luke 9:60
85. Pray the Lord of the Harvest to send laborers into the harvest. Luke 10:2
86. Rejoice not that the spirits are subject to you but that your names are written in heaven. Luke 10:20
87. Go and do likewise (as the Good Samaritan) Luke 10:37
88. When you pray, say the Lord's Prayer. Luke 11:1
89. Take heed that the light in you be not darkness. Luke 11:35
90. Give alms of such things as ye have. Luke 11:41
91. Whom to fear and not to fear: Him who has power to cast into hell. Do not fear. Luke 12:4-7
92. Don't worry what to say when brought before courts. Luke 12:11-12; 21:14
93. Beware of covetousness. Luke 12:15
94. Don't seek food and drink or be anxious. Luke 12:29
95. Do not fear, it so God's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Luke 12:32
96. Be like servants awaiting their master. Be ready. Luke 12:35-40
97. Take the lowest place, let others exalt you. Luke 14:8-11
98. When you give a supper, invite the poor and crippled who cannot repay you. Luke 14:12
99. Take heed; rebuke sinning brother, forgive if he repents; even seven times a day. Luke 17:3-4
100. Render to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's. Luke 20:25
101. Take heed lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares. Luke 21:34
102. Let the little children come to me Luke 18:16
103. He who has ears to hear, let him hear. Luke 14:35

Fr. Justin Frederick

From St. Innocent of Alaska

It is impossible fully to comprehend and to describe all the benefits that the Lord has prepared for us. Let us just say that all who choose to believe in Him and to live a Christian life will become sons of God, will attain Paradise, where the angels and the just reside, and will see God face to face. They will rejoice with a pure and eternal joy, knowing no weariness, sadness, or troubles.

It is so wonderful that Jesus Christ gives these benefits not to a chosen few but to each and every person who desires to receive them! The path to salvation has been shown and arranged; it has been made as smooth and level as possible. Besides this, Jesus Himself constantly helps us along the way, so to speak, leading us by the hand. It only remains for us not to oppose Him, not to be obstinate, but to surrender ourselves to His will. So you can see how much Jesus Christ loves us and what great blessings He is bestowing upon us!

Let us consider for a moment what would happen if Jesus were to appear before us now and ask: "My children! Do you love Me for all that I have done for you and do you value those blessings that I bestow upon you?" Who among us would not answer Him: "Yes, Lord! I love You and am grateful to You!"

If, then, we truly love Jesus Christ with our hearts and not just with our words, and if we are grateful to Him, are we then not bound to carry out what He wills for us to do? When a person truly loves his benefactor, he expresses his gratitude by doing what pleases his benefactor.

Upcoming Events 2019

- 31 October: All-Saints Party
10 November: Parish Thanksgiving Meal
15 November: Nativity Fast Begins

GLORY BE TO GOD IN ALL THINGS!