

A work in progress: Ed Towbin 11/13/14

6. **Practice and express caring, concern, compassion, nurturing, loving:**
 - (1) *Tzedakah, Hesed*, Lovingkindness, Sharing, Charity:
7. **Strive to make/experience spiritual moments: that we can label and accept as holy, wholesome, sanctified, divine, and blessed.**
 - (1) feelings of connectedness, reverence, compassion, beauty, joy, love, meaning, awareness, gratitude, purpose and inspiration, etc.
 - (2) Foster first person “affirmative” liturgy rather than second person “quotation” or authoritarian imperative mode. Such as, “I shall love my neighbor as myself.” rather than “You shall love your neighbor as yourself”.
 - (3) Express affirmations in present tense, rather than quotations in past tense.
 - (4) Encourage gratitude. “...for through thanksgiving comes awakening.” Rabbi Rami Shapiro
8. **Encourage wholesome, life-fostering, moral and ethical guidelines**
 - (1) Based on natural human essentials. Not handed down from on high.
 - (2) Strive to produce the maximum of good things and well-being, life and growth.
9. **Derive ideas from consistent rational thinking and discussion**
 - (1) Resist hearing voice, revelations
10. **Eschew Idolatry**
 - (1) *Refrain from* revering, worshiping, or making sacrifice to anything real or imaginary with an expectation of receiving a response and/or a benefit;
 - (2) As well as the idea that having an object in one’s possession confers on the owner power(s) from the object.
 - (3) Also using worship or prayer to attempt to influence or condition the relationship of people or events through the intervention of an external supernatural force.
12. **Some phrases of *Scripture and **Kaplan which resonate with me:**
 - *“Love your neighbor as yourself” *Lev. 19:18*
 - *“What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor” *R. Hillel (Babylonian Talmud)*
 - **“Judaism is the evolving religious civilization of the Jewish People.”
 - **“Don’t say it if you don’t mean it.”
 - **“The past has a vote but not a veto.”
 - Strive to achieve **“continuity in change”
 - Strive to promote **“unity with diversity”

Disclaimer.. Some of this may sound dogmatic and/or imperative. Not my intent. Consider each statement starting with: “I think I/we should...” or “I suggest trying...” or “How about ...?”

1. **Refrain from supernatural god-talk.**
 - (1) Refrain from anthropomorphic terms.
 - (2) Use language that is non-personal and natural. Use language that refers to natural processes and forces which may be invoked without resorting to metaphor or symbolism, and without personification as a human-type being.
 - (3) Reject religious practices that only make sense from a supernatural point-of-view.
 - (4) Embrace, create, and share practices that promote R. MM Kaplan’s formula: “God is the power that makes for salvation”. He identifies “salvation” with fulfillment through the discovery or creating of meaning in life, and the realization of one’s/our highest ideals
2. **Reject choseness in favor of choosing to recognize the validity of our and other peoples’ paths and vocations.**
 - (1) Reject exclusivity and separation.
 - (2) Strive to establish connection between people. Strengthening awareness and acceptance of diversity even within close relationships, blood relationships, within clans and families, extending out to establish a more expansive range of inclusivity.
 - (3) Promote liturgical expression related to all humanity; humanistic
3. **Relate to this life, this world, this-worldly:**
 - (1) Express a naturalistic worldview, being part of Nature. Protecting the environment.
 - (2) Be here now; being mindful - awake to this place, this time.
 - (3) Refrain from other-worldly language such as “for the sake of Heaven”, “a place in Paradise”, “The World to Come”, appealing to angels.
4. **Support feelings of unity, linkage, connection, unification:**
 - (1) Self to Family to Community to Tribe to Jewish People to Humanity to... life on Earth(?).
 - (2) Bonding across expanses of time and distance; social barriers.
5. **Model inclusiveness, participation, pluralism, and democratic process:**
 - (1) Gender neutrality;
 - (2) Resist aristocratic monarchic language that have no resonance in a democratic culture: King, Queen, Sovereign, Majesty, kingdom, dominion
 - (3) Egalitarian; Nonhierarchical imagery and concepts.