

The Knights Code of Chivalry

The Song of Roland:

- To fear God and maintain His Church
- To serve the lord in valor and faith
- To protect the weak and defenseless
- To give protect widows and orphans
- To refrain from the wanton giving of offense
- To live by honor and for glory
- To despise pecuniary reward
- To fight for the welfare of all
- To obey those placed in authority
- To guard the honor of fellow knights
- To fight against unfairness, meanness, and deceit
- To keep faith
- To speak the truth at all times
- To persevere to the end in any enterprise begun
- Never to refuse a challenge from an equal
- Never to back down from a challenge from an enemy (bravery)
- To respect the honor of women

The ideals described in the Code of Chivalry were emphasized by the oaths and vows that were sworn in Knighthood ceremonies. These sacred oaths of combat were combined with the ideals of chivalry and with strict rules of etiquette and conduct. The ideals of a Knights Code of Chivalry were publicized in the poems, ballads, writings and literary works. The wandering minstrels of the Middle Ages sang these ballads and were expected to memorize the words of long poems describing the valor and the code of chivalry followed by the Medieval knights.

Knights Code of Chivalry described by the 14th Century Duke of Burgundy:

- Faith
- Charity
- Justice
- Sagacity
- Prudence
- Temperance
- Resolution
- Truth
- Liberality
- Diligence
- Hope
- Valor