

Chivalry: What is Was, What It Is, and What It Could Be



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If you're like most people, you're thinking one of two things right now...
That's one of the coolest things I've seen.
OR... This guy missed the Tardis to the San Diego Comic Con...

But When the Zombie Apocalypse Begins...



You'll know where to come...

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But either way, you know where to come when the zombie apocalypse starts. In either event, the pageantry that comes with wearing the gear is really only a symbol of the topic I have been asked to discuss today.

What Does Chivalry Mean To You?

When you think of the word Chivalry, what comes to mind?



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I want you to think about this question for a few minutes while I give you a little background.

The International Fellowship of Chivalry-Now

- A little history about the fellowship
- Non-secular
- Non-partisan
- Gender neutral
- My personal Quest



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- The International Fellowship of Chivalry Now was originally conceived in 2006 when Dean Joseph Jacque created the web site www.chivalrynow.net after attending a musical rendition of Camelot and being inspired that the concepts of chivalry might be an ideal foundation for solving social problems. Dean had been employed in the social services for most of his career and had already started a newsletter called Arete which in ancient Greek means “the Highest Virtue” (we’ll chat about that more later). In 2007 Dean met another gentlemen named Steven Forgette of like thinking and they began the process of defining Chivalry as it applies today and shortly thereafter the book Chivalry-Now was published on the topic and the 12 Trusts were presented for the first time. Today the open forum on the Chivalry Now web site has over 200 members and 20,000+ posts on various topics as they relate to chivalry.
- Review the demographic reach of the principles
- Why I taught myself chain mail set the tone
- My quest began with the epiphany that I was unsettled, unhappy, and angry all the time. Read several books including “A Knights Own Book of Chivalry” by Geoffroi de Charny. Read the first chapter of CN and knew I had found what I needed, a roadmap a better way of life.

So Back To the Question

Chivalry?



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- White board the answers for use later.
- Take comments from the audience. Probably will receive comments about knights, opening doors for ladies, nobility, maybe courtesy and honor.
- In fact, it was all of this and much more.



The Truth Is...

**Chivalry was probably all
of those things and much
more**

Medieval chivalry evolved dramatically
between the 12th and 13th centuries and
beyond



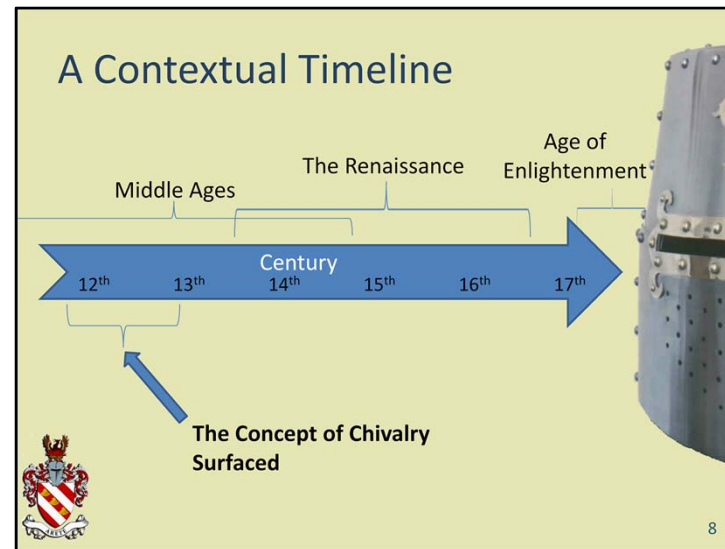
A Little Terminology

- Middle Ages
- The Renaissance
- The Age of Enlightenment
- Chivalry (Code of)
- Knighthood



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- The Middle Ages is really the only true historical period
- The Renaissance and Age of Enlightenment were not historical periods but more intellectual or cultural movements
- The idea of chivalry was a concept adopted during the middle ages which some might suggest contributed to some of the changes seen in the renaissance and age of enlightenment.



- First, let's look at how some concepts you have probably heard of fit together from a timeframe perspective.
- The Middle Ages is a historical period, the Renaissance and Enlightenment are not.
- Most academic historians date the Middle Ages as beginning in 476 (fall of the Roman empire in the West). Nearly all academic historians date the end of the Middle Ages as 1492 (discovery of the New World by Columbus).
- The Renaissance spanned parts of both the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period (1492-1789). Art Historians date the beginning as 1291 (first known works by Giotto); military historians would put the start date much later, 1453 and the fall of Constantinople to the Ottoman Turks, and the end of the Hundred Years War between England and France. As to an end date, many historians cite the publication of 'Discourse on the Method' (1637) by Descartes, or his 'Meditations on First Philosophy' (1641). Others take the Renaissance as ending in 1688 with the Glorious Revolution in England.
- The Age of Enlightenment was part of the Early Modern Period, some taking it as carrying on into the early portion of what is known to historians as the 'Long' 19th century (1789 - 1914). The same is true of the Enlightenment. Some historians date it as beginning with either of the 2 works by Descartes mentioned above, some as the Restoration in England (1660) or the Glorious Revolution. Some see the Enlightenment as lasting from 1700 - 1800, 1715 - 1789, 1715 - 1815, or combinations of any of these.
- Where did Knights come in: 500 AD Rome falls, chaos ensues, wealthy noblemen gather able bodied men around them for defense and reward them with war spoils, armor, weapons, and eventually, land. The age of Knights had

begun.

- Chivalry as a concept first appeared around 1200, becoming a code of conduct which could be taught to aspiring aristocrats. Chivalry was idealistic: it demanded high moral standards and ethical conduct towards the disadvantaged and weak in society. The chivalrous man turned his back on luxury and parade, embraced hardship and pursued high standards of loyalty and honesty.
- As time passed, this code appears to have evolved to focus more on aristocratic behavior toward one another and much less on the more Victorian view of how nobles treated the less fortunate.

Early Chivalric Code of Conduct



- Idealistic
- High moral standards
- Ethics
- Kindness and service toward the disadvantaged or weak



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Early Chivalric Code of Conduct

- *To fear God and maintain His Church*
- To serve the liege lord in valour (courage) and faith
- To protect the weak and defenceless
- To give succour (charity) to widows and orphans
- To refrain from the wanton giving of offence (be kind to people)
- To live by honour and for glory (live a life you and others are proud of)
- To despise pecuniary reward (serve for rewards other than money)
- To fight for the welfare of all
- To obey those placed in authority
- To guard the honour of fellow knights
- To eschew unfairness, meanness and deceit (be fair and kind to others)
- To keep faith at all times to speak the truth
- To persevere to the end in any enterprise begun (finish what you start)
- To respect the honour of women
- *Never to refuse a challenge from an equal*
- *Never to turn the back upon a foe*



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The Knights Code of Chivalry described in the Song of Roland (roughly 12th century) is an excellent representation of a Knight's Codes of Chivalry

Those in italic are either dated concepts or religious ones based on the dominant religion of the time.

“Medieval” vs. “Courtly” Chivalry



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By the 13th century, the code of chivalry had already started to change into more of a courtly code of behavior that dictated how nobles treated each other both on and off the battlefield and had much less to do with the actual ethics that were the early trademarks of the code.

How Does Chivalry Apply Today?

In a world that appears to be dominated by:

- Greed
- Selfishness
- Rudeness
- Constant anger



**Chivalry provides an alternative
and a framework to regain what was lost**

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It's no secret that people like you and me have had about enough of the corruption and scandal.

- The 99% movement
- Political brinksmanship
- Extremism
- Wall street and big business
- Road rage

Areté The Greatest Good or Highest Virtue

- When a being masters their unique characteristic, they express the Arété of who they are
- For humans that unique characteristic is rational and virtuous thought



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- To understand how chivalry can apply today, it helps to first understand the concept of Arete.
- Leveraging freedom, free will, and logic to positively impact the world
- When you are free to leverage your ability to make rational, logical, decisions that further the cause of the greater good, you are expressing the Arete of who they really are.

The 12 Trusts of Chivalry-Now

Upon my honor,

1. I will develop my life for the greater good.
2. I will place character above riches, and concern for others above personal wealth.
3. I will never boast, but cherish humility instead.
4. I will speak the truth at all times, and forever keep my word.
5. I will defend those who cannot defend themselves.
6. I will honor and respect others, and refute bigotry in all its guises.
7. I will uphold justice by being fair to all.
8. I will be faithful in love and loyal in friendship.
9. I will abhor scandals and gossip-neither partake nor delight in them.
10. I will be generous to the poor and to those who need help.
11. I will forgive when asked, that my own mistakes will be forgiven.
12. I will live my life with courtesy and honor from this day forward.



By adhering to these 12 Trusts, I swear to partake in the living Quest in everything I do.

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- Once you are willing to pursue Arete, you just need a set of guiding principles that define it.
- The 12 Trusts as presented by Chivalry Now provide a framework
- You'll note many similarities to the original Chivalric code presented earlier
- However, these have been slightly modified to apply to our modern culture
- Not going to go into deep discussion on these as there is an entire book that talks about them, but let's take a few moments to consider how closely you think you currently follow each of the trusts. Rank each quickly on a scale of 1-10. (survey form???)

Ok, How About Something a Little Closer to Home



The Workforce Readiness Skills



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12 Trusts and original Chivalric code are reflected strongly in the Workforce Readiness Skills you have been learning about.

Notice Any Similarities?

Your Workforce Readiness Skills Are PROVEN over the centuries:

- **Honesty:** Trust 4 – Speak the Truth
- **Ethics:** All 12 Trusts
- **Maturity:** Trust 1 – Develop your life for the greater good
- **Civility:** Trust 2 – Place character above all
- **Politeness:** Trust 12 – Live my life with courtesy and honor



Notice Any Similarities?

- **Acknowledge Authority:** Chivalric Code To serve the liege lord in valour and faith & To *obey (respect)* those placed in authority
- **Take Responsibility:** Trust 4 – Speak the truth at all times & a basic tenant of Chivalry Now
- **Initiative & Perseverance:** Chivalric Code - To persevere to the end in any enterprise begun & Trust 1 – Develop your life for the greater good



You Can't Complete a Quest Without Knowing Where You're Starting

Where would you rate yourself on each of the 12 Trusts?

Please rate yourself on a scale of 1-10 with 10 being that you feel you have mastered the trust and 1 being a strong need to develop it.



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Hand out the evaluation form

Some Terminology To Help Your Evaluation

- Trust 1: Are you living your life to benefit the world and not just yourself?
- Trust 2: What's more important to you? Being a good person that leaves a positive impact on the world or being rich and living a life of leisure?.
- Trust 3: Do you sometimes brag or take to much credit for things?
- Trust 4: Do you tell the truth and follow through on your promises?
- Trust 5: Do you come to the aid of those in need both physically and emotionally?
- Trust 6: Do you treat everyone the same despite color, religious affiliation, political view, sexual orientation or any other difference?
- Trust 7: Are you objectively fair, looking at what is fair from different perspectives?
- Trust 8: Do you stand by your friends and loved ones at all times?
- Trust 9: Do you talk about other people behind their back? Do you tend to live your life more interested in other peoples lives than yours?
- Trust 10: Do you do everything you can to help others in need?
- Trust 11: Are you forgiving to those that have truly wronged you if they are genuinely apologetic?
- Trust 12: Do you go out of your way to be courteous, friendly, and helpful to others without expectation of them returning it?

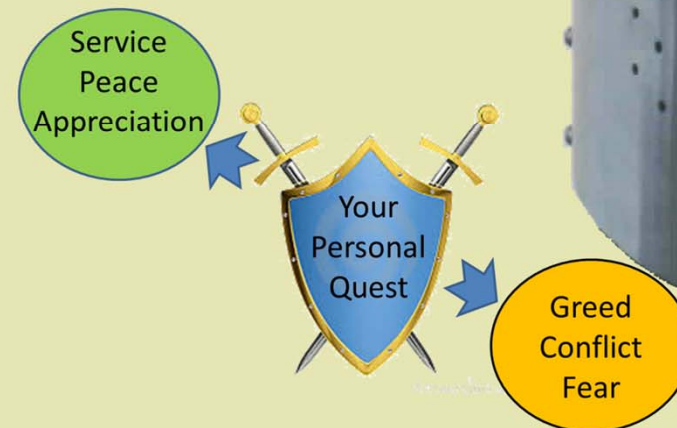


Emphasize that this is a snapshot of where they are now, not where they want to go. Also, state clearly that its OK to not rank yourself high. These may be new ideas that nobody starts off perfect in any new endeavor.

A Personal Challenge

Find your Personal Quest

- Take a close look at how you want to live your life
- Always consider how your decisions impact the world
- Take responsibility for your own life
- Start Small
- Learn it. Know it. Live it.



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Take personal responsibility for your own life and happiness.
Make decisions that feel good and right not just for you, but others as well.
Its part of living in a free society, take advantage of it!
Never stop learning.

And You Would Not Be Alone



Viggo Mortensen, Johnny Depp, Ellen DeGeneres, Keanu Reeves, Oprah Winfrey, Angelina Jolie, JK Rowling, Russell Brand, and countless other celebrities are making a difference every day beyond what their money can do.

The only reason I put these people up is because you have probably heard of them. The simple fact is the vast majority of people today WANT to live in a society that respects the very same principles laid out by the 12 trusts.

In 2012, a Josephson Institute study of 23K high school students found that 99 percent agree that "it is important for me to be a person with good character." 93 percent say they are satisfied with their own ethics and character. - See more at: http://charactercounts.org/programs/reportcard/2012/installment_report-card_honesty-integrity.html#sthash.OMIoKEBO.dpuf

Viggo Mortensen

“Be kind. It's worthwhile to make an effort to learn about other people and figure out what you might have in common with them.”

- Bought the horse Arwen rode and gave it to the stunt double
- Considers “anyone who speaks truth, stands up against injustice and cruelty regardless of any consequential risk of ostracism or personal physical danger” his heroes



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- Speaks five languages
- Writer
- Composer

JK Rowling

Before the release of the Harry Potter series' fourth book, "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire", JK Rowling wrote the book's ending a year early for Natalie McDonald, a little girl diagnosed with leukemia. Natalie died before reading JK's email, so JK named a character after her. That character was sorted into Gryffindor.



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Also regularly visits sick children in an attempt to raise their spirits.

Keanu Reeves

- Put several movie shoots on hold to take care of his sister with leukemia and donated millions to further research
- Donated nearly \$80M of his “Matrix” earnings to the costume and special effects teams as they deserved “all the credit”
- Paid off the debts of several Matrix crew members that were struggling



A Few Final Thoughts

Chivalry Never Died. People taking personal responsibility for their actions did.

Being human is a matter of birth.

Being an adult is a matter of age.

Being a good person that chooses to live with honor is a matter of choice.

***Adapted from an excerpt
from the Knights of the
Free Company***



***The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is
that good men do nothing.***

Edmund Burke

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Comment that this, the armor, the sword, the coat of arms are NOT what chivalry is. They are only a symbol of where the concept came from. Chivalry is in the mind and in the heart

You commonly hear the phrase “Chivalry is dead” ideas can never die, but they can evolve. The evolution of the concept of chivalry has changed, many would say for the worse, over the decades and centuries. But the foundational ideas do still live and can flourish again, it just takes brave people to nourish it.

Questions and Comments



Some Resources

- www.ChivalryNow.net
- “Chivalry-Now, The Code of Male Ethics”
by D. Joseph Jacque
- “The Deeper Quest” by D. Joseph Jacque
- “Chivalry” by Maurice Keen
- There are many others
- Contact me through your staff



Lets Make Some Chainmail!



Many Types of Chainmail



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The origin of chainmail is generally credited to the early Celts of Ireland. The earliest example of mail was found in a [Celtic](#) chieftain's burial chamber. Its invention is commonly credited to the Celts, but there are examples of basic mail predating from at least the 4th century BC. From Europe, mail spread to North Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia, India, Tibet, Korea and Japan.

European 4 in 1



European 4 in 1

