

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

---

Paul W. Bean Civil War Papers

Manuscripts

---

1920

## Principles and Purposes of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan

Ku Klux Klan

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/paul\\_bean\\_papers](https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/paul_bean_papers)



Part of the [Military History Commons](#), and the [Social History Commons](#)

---

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Paul W. Bean Civil War Papers by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact [um.library.technical.services@maine.edu](mailto:um.library.technical.services@maine.edu).

Please note:

Libraries and archives collect materials from different cultures and time periods to preserve and make available the historical record. As a result, materials such as those presented here may reflect sexist, misogynistic, abusive, or discriminatory attitudes or actions that some may find harmful or difficult to view.

PRINCIPLES  
*and* PURPOSES

*of the.*

Knights *of the*  
Ku Klux  
Klan



OUTLINED BY  
AN EXALTED CYCLOPS  
OF THE ORDER



# PRINCIPLES *and* PURPOSES

## *of the* KNIGHTS *of the* KU KLUX KLAN

OUTLINED *by an* EXALTED CYCLOPS  
OF THE ORDER

---

A detailed exposition of the objects, aims and purposes of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan has been compiled by the Exalted Cyclops of Monroe Klan Number 4, Realm of Louisiana, and is herewith published for the benefit of Klansmen in all parts of the nation:

The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, as now organized, is a patriotic, benevolent, fraternal order, the chief aims of which are to bring the different branches of the Protestant church into a closer relationship, one with another; to inculcate a purer patriotism in its members; to uphold the Constitution and laws of the United States and the separate states thereof; to maintain, perfect and perpetuate the free public schools and to preserve the United States as a Protestant Christian nation.

To be eligible to membership in this all-American order, one must have been born in the United States, of white parentage, be over eighteen years of age and of the Protestant Christian faith.

The principles upon which the order is founded are taken from the Twelfth chapter of Romans. It is not claimed or intended that the Klan be a church, or that it take the place of the church, but it is intended that the Klan be a powerful adjunct to the Protestant Church. No man can be a good Klansman and not be a better citizen and a more consistent Christian by the experience.

*Patriotism and Christianity* are preeminently the moving principles of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

The *Flag*, the *Constitution* and the *Holy Bible* are the keystone of Klan principles.

---

---

## PRINCIPLES *and* PURPOSES

---

---

The Klan stands for law and order, freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of conscience, for the free public school, separation of church and state, white supremacy and Protestant Christianity. It is the sworn duty of a Klansman to uphold the law and assist the regularly constituted authorities, at all times, in the discharge of their legal duties. "To protect the home, the chastity of womanhood, and to exemplify a pure patriotism toward our glorious country."

Klansmen are opposed to all manner of mobs, and to mob violence in every form, to violent labor agitations and the destruction of public and private property without due process of law. Klansmen contend that all disputes between citizens, which cannot be adjusted by the parties directly interested, should be and must be settled through the regular established courts of the country.

Klansmen are opposed to Bolshevism, Sovietism, Anarchism, Communism, and every other "ism" or cult that has for its object the overthrow of the government of the United States. Klansmen do not believe that any man or woman who opposes the government has any right to protection under the government, and should be deported or placed behind prison bars.

### NOT AN "ANTI" ORDER

Klansmen contend, and defy any man to disprove their contentions, that the Protestant Christian citizens of this country have as much right to organize an all-Protestant society as the Roman Catholics and Jews have to organize their all-Catholic and all-Jewish societies. Klansmen are not "against" the Catholics or "against" the Jews, but are "for" Protestant Christianity *first, last and all the time*.

The Roman Catholic excludes himself from membership in the Klan by owing allegiance to a foreigner or foreign institution. Klansmen contend that no person owing allegiance to any foreigner, foreign government, person, prince or potentate, ecclesiastical or otherwise, can be a one hundred per cent American and are therefore not eligible for membership in the organization.

---

---

## KNIGHTS *of the* KU KLUX KLAN

---

---

The Jew excludes himself from membership in the Klan by refusing to accept the Christian religion. The American-born Jew, if he would accept Jesus Christ and make his moral standards to measure up to Christian requirements, would be eligible for membership. Many Klansmen believe, under such conditions, he would make a good Klansman.

The Jew is essentially an alien, non-assimilative and clannish to a degree. From the earliest history of the race, the Jew has considered material success an unmistakable mark of Divine approval, consequently his code of business ethics does not always harmonize with Christian ideas or Christian principles.

Klansmen commend the clannishness of the Jew, knowing that it is one of the main reasons for his universal success. God bless him, he takes care of his own and sees that no Jew goes without assistance in time of need.

Klansmen are sworn to practice Klannishness toward Klansmen, not only in their commercial, material and social relations, but in their moral and spiritual relations as well.

The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan has no fight to make upon the Negro. He is recognized as an inferior race and Klansmen are sworn to protect him, his rights and property and assist him in the elevation of his moral and spiritual being and in the preservation of the purity of his race.

The Klan has no fight to make upon any man because of his race, place of birth, religion or political affiliations.

The Constitution of the United States guarantees to every man the right to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience and the Klan stands eternally upon the Constitution.

The Klan does not attempt to regulate the private morals, family affairs, political or religious beliefs of any man.

This being a true statement of the principles and purposes of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, the question naturally arises: Why this relentless war now being waged upon the order?

It does not require the wisdom of a sage, or the reasoning power of a philosopher to answer the question.

---

## PRINCIPLES *and* PURPOSES

---

### LAW BREAKERS OPPOSED

The activity and determination of the Klan to see the laws of this country respected and enforced has arrayed every crook and every law-breaker, down to the least and lowest, against the Klan. Every bootlegger, moonshiner, jake-seller, libertine, prostitute and black-leg gambler feels that the life of their vicious business depends upon the putting of the Klan out of business. Closely allied with this "motely crew" and going hand in hand with them, in their efforts to suppress the Klan, we have the Roman Catholics, Jews, a certain class of Negro preachers, some politicians and a few honest, but misguided Gentiles.

I am loath to believe that every American-born Catholic is content to affiliate with the vicious bunch now opposing the Klan, and it is well known that there are many Jews, down in their hearts, not opposed to the order. But the great body of Roman Catholics and Jews have sworn, to never cease their nefarious propaganda until the Ku Klux are put out of business. It is useless to say that they are losing much needed sleep and spending many thousands of dollars to accomplish their purpose. The Klan is here, and here it will remain until the last son of a Protestant surrenders his manhood, and is content to see America Catholized, mongrelized and circumcised.

One great "bug-a-boo" put forth by the enemies of the Klan is the mask. They vehemently tell us "there is no objection to the Klan if you discard the mask." This is the biggest subterfuge ever put forth by a hypocrite to mislead an honest man. It is not the mask that worries the enemies of the Klan, but the fact that the identity of the Klansmen is concealed. The crook cannot locate them. The vicious cannot keep their eye upon them. Therefore, when they wish to sally forth upon an errand of questionable enjoyment, their pleasure is marred by the thought of a Klansman on their trail. The invisible presence of a Klansman is their nightmare—not the mask.



---

---

## KNIGHTS *of the* KU KLUX KLAN

---

---

The use of the mask, except within the lodge-room, at public naturalizations or in public parades by special permission, is strictly forbidden by the rules of the order.

### "MAKE AMERICA CATHOLIC"

There is another feature of the Klan organization which is disturbing the cherished dreams of Roman Catholics everywhere, and to the Protestant mind this is the most appealing feature of the Ku Klux Klan. The Catholics see in the Klan the possibility of bringing together the different branches of the Protestant Church, of co-operating and co-ordinating the Protestant effort to forestall Rome in her drive to make America Catholic. As long as Protestantism is divided and pulling against itself, the Roman church is happy. That church is united and headed straight for the goal. Their watch-word is "*Make America Catholic*" and unless Protestantism is aroused and united, the Catholics will succeed.

The enemies of the Klan are forcing a tremendous fight. The lines are drawn, and are being drawn tighter and tighter, day by day. The time is at hand when no self-respecting American Protestant can hold himself aloof. You must either join the Klan and throw your influence on the side of decency, Christianity and law enforcement, or join the law-breakers, negro preachers, Roman Catholics and Jews.

No self-respecting man can any longer be neutral. If you believe in the preservation of American ideals, the enforcement of law, the ascendancy of the white race, the separation of church and state, the perpetuation of the free public schools, and the Christian religion, join the Klan. Otherwise, line up with crooks, law-breakers, moral reprobates, non-Christians and those who do not owe their first allegiance to the United States.

To reiterate, the Klan has no fight to make upon the individual Catholic or upon the Catholic church, as a church, but most strenuously objects to any church being used as a political machine and its members voted to

---

## PRINCIPLES *and* PURPOSES

---

warp, annul or set aside a highly cherished American institution. The public school system of this country is justly considered the very bulwark of the nation. In these schools, the ideals of our future citizens are moulded. Consequently, the safety and solidity of this nation depends upon the preservation, perfection and perpetuation of the free public school and upon every child attending it.

The Roman Catholic church is opposed to the free public school and is bending its every energy to circumvent its influence, if not abolish the system altogether. That church contends that the education of the children of this nation should be directed by the church and when a Catholic says Church, he means the Roman Catholic Church, and will recognize no other.

The preservation of American ideals and the Christian religion depends upon the early creation in the children of this nation of a reverence for and an undying faith in God's holy word. That this reverence and faith may be indelibly stamped upon the minds of the children, the Bible must be read and explained to them daily, during their early school years.

The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan believe that the free public schools should be the vehicle for this Bible reading and instruction, and that no atheist, infidel, skeptic, or non-believer should be allowed to teach in the public schools. The Klan does not contend for sectarian instruction in the Bible, but asks that it be read and explained from the broad viewpoint of its divine origin and inspiration.

Some weak-kneed Protestants and "jelly bean" Americans are willing to forego this Bible reading in the public school, surrender their religious convictions and, if necessary, deny Jesus Christ, to avoid offending the Roman Catholics and Jews and maintain harmony in the community.

If such harmony, obtained at such a sacrifice, is more desirable than a real living Christianity, then Jesus Christ is a myth and the Bible a fable.

---

# KNIGHTS *of the* KU KLUX KLAN

---

## TO CURB IMMIGRATION

A large percentage of the foreign immigrants pouring into this country, during the past few years, have been Roman Catholics and a big per cent of these immigrants are from the lowest strata of Italy, Poland and other Roman Catholic countries. As fast as these immigrants land upon our shores, they are "corraled" by the Catholic church, herded into congested sections of the big cities, naturalized as soon as possible, and voted in order to elect men to office who will do the bidding of Rome.

The policy of the Klan is to stop this stream of undesirables and thus prevent the glutting of the American labor market, and the Romanizing and mongrelizing of the citizenship of the United States. There are two great influences in this country opposed to checking this stream of European "riff-raff" and in favor of letting down the bars and flooding this country with the very scum of the earth. These influences are the Roman Catholic church and the big employers of pauper labor.

Our first and most important duty is to correct the impression made common by a subsidized press—that the Klan is a mob organization. We can do this only by living in our daily lives, the principles set forth in the Twelfth chapter of Romans. We must show, by word and deed, that a Klansman is not only a one hundred per cent American, but an honest law abiding Christian gentleman and a real "he-man."

We must show to the world that Protestant Christianity has a better formula for building honest God-fearing men than has the Roman Catholics and Jews, or else we have no right, moral or civil, to direct or dominate the affairs of this great democratic nation. Neither *fuss* nor *force* will get you anywhere with the serious, right thinking citizenship of America. The Protestants must be able to "deliver the goods" or go down, as they should go down, in ignominious defeat. The affairs of this nation cannot be successfully directed by *ignorance* and *bluff* and every good Protestant and Klansman is

---

---

## PRINCIPLES *and* PURPOSES

---

opposed to capitalizing *prejudice* for political success, or playing upon ignorance for personal gain.

We must realize that the safety, peace and dignity of this country depends upon *you* and *I*. We cannot shirk our individual duties, either as Klansmen, citizens or members of the Christian church. We must wake up to the fact that under this republican form of government, every right and privilege carries with it a duty and that no one hundred per cent American can shirk that duty and be a good Klansman, a good citizen or a consistent Christian.

### KEEP AMERICA PROTESTANT

We often boast that this is a Protestant nation. If this boast is to mean anything, the Protestant Christians of the United States must assert themselves. They must unite in one concerted effort to save America or the time is rapidly approaching when we can no longer claim the United States as a Protestant Christian nation. The Protestants must co-operate and co-ordinate their efforts, not only along social and religious lines, but in politics and business as well. There is no time left to "haggle" over methods or unimportant details, we must get together *now* or forfeit the precious heritage transmitted to us by our forefathers.

We cannot preserve this nation as a Protestant Christian democracy by placing the enemies of Protestantism and those who deny Jesus Christ, in control. This Protestant nation must be preserved and it can be done only by seeing that none but Protestant Americans are placed on guard.

The object of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan is not to violate the law but to uphold the law—not to oppress or persecute mankind, but to uplift mankind; not to create strife or racial prejudice among men, but to cultivate brotherly kindness among men; not to crush the down-trodden, but to protect the weak, assist the needy and preserve the ideals and government of the United States.

---

---

## KNIGHTS *of the* KU KLUX KLAN

---

---

"God give us men, sun-crowned and strong,  
with their heads above the fog." Give us men  
whose hearts beat true to the principles of  
personal decency and whose souls are filled  
with the love of Jesus Christ. Remove from  
our makeup, the bane of human selfishness and  
broaden our usefulness to God and man.

Jesus Christ is the Klansman's criterion of  
character and to Him we look for light, love  
and life.



a Augusta Maine

Augusta  
Me.