

## Copy Book Maxims

**CHILDREN** and older youth can practise beautiful handwriting (=calligraphy) by copying inspiring texts. Perhaps several times a week:-

- make it a reward, a privilege, but not a punishment;
- repeat only enough times to learn a text by heart.
- Do something beautiful for God;
- furnish the empty mind and ennoble the soul.
- This effort improves reading, speaking, and listening;
- and enriches other work (like icing on a cake).
- Sloppy writing prompts (and is prompted) by slackness.
- Add your own texts; e.g. from *Æsop's Fables*.
- One-liners are best; break longer texts into parts.

### OPTIONS

- Handwriting improves with an ink pen with nib. Perhaps omit the references to avoid clutter.
- Lines can be split to make a text look more poetic.
- Latin tags and translations may stand on their own.
- Even rough writing can incite you to do better:-

**BEAUTIFUL** writing must be readable. So go slow, and make each letter readable on its own; never force a reader to guess at letters from the context:-

- Clarity comes before beauty and speed.
- Space each letter apart from the next.
- Do not let *u* and *w* look like *ii* and *ui*; dot each *i*.
- Lift pen only to dot *i* and *j*, cross *t* and make *x*.
- The style here is copperplate (albeit roughly done).
- Choose alternatives for readability, not PC; and
- reject writing styles in which letters don't link up:
- each letter must link onto the next, except capitals; capitals may be printed or ornate.
- Loopy letters are clearer,
- but keep loops open;
- don't round sharp-turns
- that distinguish *b* & *l*, *h* & *k*:

zyxcwvutsrqponmlkjihgfedcba  
 Quick brown foxes jumped over the lazy dog

## Bible Texts

Do as you would be done by.

The Golden Rule: Matthew 7:12 (cf. Tobias 4:16)

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

(Longer version is easier to understand)

Love one another as I have loved you.

John 14:12

If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

John 14:15

Greater love no man has

than to lay down his life for his friends.

John 14:12

Do justice, love mercy,

and walk humbly with Thy God.

Micah 6:8

For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory.

*Didache* (based on 1 Chronicles 29:11)

God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

It is more blessed to give than to receive.

The Lord Jesus, Acts 20:35

Dare to be a Daniel,

dare to stand alone,

dare to have a purpose true,

and dare to make it known.

The Book of Daniel the Prophet

Faith, Hope and Charity: the greatest of these is charity.

Theological Virtues, 1 Corinthians 13:13

Charity covers a multitude of sins.

1 Peter 4:8 (cf. James 5:20)

Prudence, Justice, Fortitude and Temperance.

Cardinal Virtues, Wisdom 8:7

No man ever spoke like this man.

John 7:46

In the beginning, God created heaven and earth.

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning was the Word.

John 1:1

The only purpose of our instruction

is that there should be love

coming from a pure heart,

a good conscience and a sincere faith.

1 Timothy 1:5

Glory be to God on high

and on earth peace to men of good will.

Luke 2:14

Samuel ministered in the presence of the Lord,

a boy girded with a lined ephod.

1 Samuel 2:18

The child Samuel became great before the Lord.

1 Samuel 2:21

Speak, Lord, for Thy servant is listening.

1 Samuel 3:10

What God hath wrought!

Numbers 23:23 (first message in Morse Code)

## Saints

Earthly longings have been crucified;  
in me there is left no spark of desire for worldly things  
but only a murmur of living water  
that whispers within me: "Come to the Father".

St Ignatius of Antioch

That in all things God might be glorified.

St Benedict

The man who prays will save his soul.

St Teresa of Avila

Thou hast made us for Thyself, O God,  
And our hearts are restless, until they rest in Thee.

St Augustine

Late have I loved Thee,  
O Beauty, so ancient and so new;  
late have I loved Thee.

St Augustine

*Ad maiorem Dei gloriam* - To the greater glory of God.

*Cor ad cor loquitur* — Heart speaks to Heart

St Francis de Sales and Cardinal Newman

Every truth, no matter who said it,  
is of the Holy Spirit.

St Thomas Aquinas quoting St Augustine

## Other Men of Good Will

One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

Nicene-Constantinople Creed

I am a link in a chain,  
a bond of connection between persons.

Venerable John Henry Cardinal Newman

*Venite, adoremus*: O come, let us adore Him.

Christmas carol, *Adeste fideles*

The next best thing to innocence is sincere repentance.

Sir Walter Scott

It is a privilege to have lived.

John L. Tierney

Truth, Beauty, Goodness, God.

Plato listed the first three

*Age quod agis* — Do what you do (i.e. do it properly)

Maxim of the spiritual masters

The Gardener asked, "Who plucked this flower?"

The Master replied, "I plucked it for myself,"  
and the Gardener held his peace.

On a child's grave.

Constant vigilance and eternal suspicion.

Jungle Warfare and avoiding occasions of sin

Depth in defence.

On avoiding occasions of sin

The battle is to the strong

(a deliberate twist on Ecclesiastes 9:1)

## Scholastic Maxims

*Quidquid recipitur per modum recipientis recipitur*:

Whatever is received is  
received according to the capacity of the recipient.

*Pars tutior sequenda est*

- the safer course should be followed.

*Prima non datur, ultima non recipitur*:

The first (lecture) is not given;  
the last not received.

*Primum non nocere* — first, do no harm.

The surgeon's motto

*Sacramentum propter homines*

- A sacrament is for the sake of men.

*Prima in intentione, ultima in executione*

What is first in intention is last in execution.

## Old Sayings

Trifles make perfection and perfection is no trifle.

He who hesitates is lost.

Look before you leap.

Out of the frying pan, into the fire.

Don't put all your eggs in the one basket.

Don't count your chickens before they're hatched.

The pitcher that goes most often to the well  
in the end gets broken.

Prevention is better than cure.

Safety First is even better than First Aid.

Honesty is the best policy.

Cheats never prosper.

Truth will out.

Tell the truth and shame the Devil.

A friend in need is a friend indeed.

Many hands make light work.

Absence makes the heart grow fonder.

Actions speak louder than words.

All's well that ends well.

Birds of a feather flock together.

A change is as good as a rest.

Too many cooks spoil the broth.

Time and tide wait for no man.

Trouble shared is trouble halved.

There's many a good tune played on an old fiddle.

One good turn deserves another.

Waste not want not.

Where there's a will there's a way.

It's easy to be wise after the event.

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.

A bad workman blames his tools.

Attack is the best form of defence.

Discretion is the better part of valour.

Give a dog a bad name and hang him.

Curiosity killed the cat.

Let sleeping dogs lie.

The exception proves the rule.

Familiarity breeds contempt.

Barking dogs seldom bite.

His bark is worse than his bite.

Don't cross your bridges until you come to them.

When the cat's away, the mice will play.

A fool and his money are soon parted.

Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.

Old habits die hard.

Practice makes perfect.

The pen is mightier than the sword.