

FACETS OF SPIRITUALISM

An ISA Workshop December 11, 2022

REV. THOMAS COMMENTS

I accept that the Spirit of the Creator is in all of creation. Therefore, I cannot accept any interpretation of Natural Law that is not universal, that favors one over another, that pits one against another, or that leaves us powerless victims. Natural Law must be available to all and is limited only by our own limited understanding and application. Lack of understanding brings consequences, not punishment.

SPIRIT OR LETTER OF THE LAW

An evaluation tool for discernment

The *letter of the law* is concerned about results, is energetically masculine, is cut and dried, black and white, and unbending.

The *spirit of the law* is concerned about results, is energetically feminine and looks for purpose and intention.

US AND THEM

An evaluation tool for discernment.

Does it include or exclude? Good and Evil. God and Satan. Christian and other. Political divides. Racial divides. Division sets the foundation for doing bad things in the name of good/God.

[Taken from the About Us page of the ISA website]

A LITTLE HISTORY

In 1924, Amanda Flower felt the need of an organization that would promote Spiritualism and let churches group together for protection and strength; yet still give the individual churches the freedom to worship in their way. She believed that Mediums could teach and do public mediumship work outside of the member charters and in the public domain. **She supported theosophical teachings** which included a **belief in reincarnation** that was not consistent with [beliefs of] the NSAC .

In 1924 she [broke with the NSAC and] founded the [ISA,] *Independent Spiritualist Association of the United States of America*. The organization has grown in membership in several states and world-wide recognition. It still maintains the purpose for which it was founded: *Togetherness with Independence*

FACETS OF SPIRITUALISM
An ISA Workshop December 11, 2022

ISA DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES
(1924 version of NSAC Principles)

- 1) We believe in Infinite Intelligence.
- 2) We believe that the phenomena of Nature, both physical and spiritual, are the expression of Infinite Intelligence.
- 3) We affirm that the correct understanding of such expression and living in accordance therewith, constitute true religion.
- 4) We affirm that the existence and personal identity of the individual continue after the change called death.
- 5) We affirm that communication with the so-called dead is a fact scientifically proven by the phenomena of Spiritualism.
- 6) We believe that the highest morality is contained in the Golden Rule, "Whatsoever you would that others should do unto you, do you likewise unto them."
- 7) We affirm the moral responsibility of the individual, and that he makes his own happiness or unhappiness as he obeys or disobeys Nature's physical and spiritual laws.
- 8) We affirm that the doorway to reformation is never closed against any soul, here or hereafter.
- 9) We affirm that the precepts of Prophecy contained in the Bible are scientifically proven by Mediumship.

Principles 1-6 adopted in Chicago, Illinois, 1899
Principles 7-8 adopted in Rochester, New York, 1909
Principle 9 adopted in St. Louis, Missouri, 1944

~~~~~  
[Below taken from the website of the National Spiritualist Association of Churches]

- 9) We affirm that the precepts of Prophecy and Healing are Divine attributes proven through Mediumship.

- Principle 9 revised in Westfield, New Jersey, 1998

**INTERPRETATION**

By Joseph P. Whitwell, Third NSAC President

- 1) By this we express our belief in a supreme Impersonal Power, everywhere present, manifesting as life, through all forms of organized matter, called by some, God, by others, Spirit and by Spiritualists, Infinite Intelligence.

## FACETS OF SPIRITUALISM

An ISA Workshop December 11, 2022

- 2) In this manner we express our belief in the immanence of Spirit and that all forms of life are manifestations of Spirit or Infinite Intelligence, and thus that all men are children of God.
- 3) A correct understanding of the laws of nature on the physical, mental and spiritual planes of life and living in accordance therewith will unfold the highest aspirations and attributes of the soul, which is the correct function of True Religion.
- 4) “Life here and life hereafter is all one life whose continuity of consciousness is unbroken by that mere change in form whose process we call death.” Lilian Whiting.
- 5) Spirit communication has been in evidence in all ages of the world and is amply recorded in both sacred and profane literature of all ages. Orthodoxy has accepted these manifestations and has interpreted them in dogma and creed in terms of the supernatural. Spiritualism accepts and recognizes these manifestations and interprets them in the understanding and light of Natural Law.
- 6) This precept we believe to be true. It points the way to harmony, peace and happiness. Wherever tried it has proven successful and when fully understood and practiced, will bring peace and happiness to man on earth.
- 7) Man himself is responsible for the welfare of the world in which he lives; for its welfare or its misery, for its happiness or unhappiness and if he is to obtain Heaven upon Earth, he must learn to make that heaven, for himself and for others. Individually, man is responsible for his own spiritual growth and welfare. Sins and wrong-doing must be outgrown and overcome. Virtue and love of good must take their place. Spiritual growth and advancement must be attained by aspiration and personal striving. Vicarious atonement has no place in the philosophy of Spiritualism. Each one must carry his own cross to Calvary’s Heights in the overcoming of wrong-doing and replacing them with the right.
- 8) We discard entirely the terrible wrong and illogical teachings of eternal damnation and in place thereof we accept and present for consideration of thinking people the thought of the continuity of life beyond the change called death. A natural life, where the opportunity for growth and progress to better, higher and more spiritual conditions are open to all, even as they are here on the earth plane of life. We accept no such teaching as a “Hell Fire,” but we do teach that sin and wrong-doing will necessarily bring remorse and suffering that would be difficult to describe in words and which can only be relieved by the individual’s own efforts if not here, then in the hereafter. If we make our own lives better while here and that of our neighbors happier we shall unfold that happiness or heaven on earth which we shall carry with us into the Spirit World.
- 9) We thus affirm our belief in and acceptance of the truths and assertions that Prophecy and Mediumship are not unique nor of recent occurrence alone, but they are universal everlasting and have been witnessed and observed in all ages of the world.