THE BIKERS CODE

It used to be that all bikers shared a common bond, an unspoken code of ethics and behavior that transcended words and was built on respect and actions.

There was never a bible written on this bikers code and there was no need for such. But the times are a-changin' and there seems to be a lot of new riders out there. These days the riders you see blastin' down the road are just as likely to be clad in shorts and sneakers as jeans and engineer boots. And the roughest, toughest-looking biker you pull up next to could be your doctor or lawyer and may be wearin' a Rolex watch under their leathers.

There's nothing wrong with that, so long as these new riders learn the code just as we old-timers did.

Being a biker used to be about using your creativity to take a basket case old hawg and using only grit and ingenuity turning it into a one-of-a-kind eye dazzler, then risking your life on the asphalt on a bike you built yourself out of pride. Bikers wore leather and grease because they knew cagers would just as soon run them down as look at them, so they had to be intimidating. We were a breed unto ourselves with no union, no support group, and in many cases, no family (they threw us out). We had to make it in a world of our own, against all rules, against mainstream society, and against all odds. We survived and prospered because of the bikers code and we never took disrespect from anybody. As an old scooter bro once said: "It's every tramp's job to school the young, how else are they gonna know a Panhead from a bed pan?"

With that in mind the following is "the basic bikers code"...

Take heed, brothers and sisters, for our Code is a hallowed one filled with respect, honor, and loyalty, the likes of which have not been since the days of knighthood:

Don't take any disrespect. Be kind to women, children and animals, but don't take any disrespect.

This is an essential part of being a biker. It has to do with respect and honor.

Anyone can be a quick-tempered fool, be cool, stand tall and backup what you say with action.

Never lie, cheat or steal. Another way of saying this is to always tell the truth.

Bikers know that their word is their bond. Your word is all you have in life that is truly yours.

Guard it carefully and be something noble for you are a true knight of the road.

Don't snitch. If you see a wrong, fight it yourself, if you are about anything you'll take care of problems yourself and never feel the need to snitch someone off.

Snitches are the lowest life forms on earth, right up there with bike thieves.

Don't Whine. Absolutely no one likes or respects a whiner. Another way to say this is "hold your mud" still another way to think of it is, "Don't sweat the small stuff"... remember most of life's little inconveniences work themselves out, whether you whine or not. Keep your chin up, dammit!

You're a biker, not some lowly snail. Never say die and never give up.

Whether it's in a fight, a debate, or a curve too tight, no matter how bad it gets, a biker never gives up.

Help others. When a brother or sister is broken down by the side of the road, always stop and help 'em.

Even moral support, if that is all you can give, is better than riding on by.

Remember life is about the journey, the ride, not getting there. You're already there.

And don't just help bikers, show the world that we are better than our image portrays us.

Courtesy costs you nothing but it brings respect to the biker nation.

Stick to your guns. Do what you say you'll do, be there when you say you will.

This is called integrity. This also goes back to standing for something.

Like the song says, "You've got to stand for something or you'll fall for anything"

Life is not a drill. Yeah, this ain't no dress rehearsal. This is life so go out and take big bites of it.

You've got no time to lose and bikers don't stand around waiting for the party to come to them.

You only go around once. Tomorrow you could be road kill, thanks to a texter asleep at the wheel of their cage.

Live life now, make the most of each moment.

All right, now let's review. You are a biker, a modern-day knight of the road. Protect the weak, walk tall, and stand proud.

Your word is your bond. Stick to your guns. Don't take any disrespect. Life is not a drill.

Now go forth and ride. When in doubt, ride. That's what bikers do...they ride. If you want to ride around in a Day-Glo Hawaiian shirt and sandals, go for it, but if you intend to look like an idiot, at least don't act like an idiot.

These commandments are just a few of the broad strokes, there is a lot more to being a biker than buying a bike.

If you just buy a bike, you are a motorcyclist.

Being a biker is a way of life, a proud way of life that we hold in high regard with a burning passion for the open road.

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