



A Perspective of Indigenous Concerns and Issues

--Al MacLeod
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For October & November, we will explore THE 7 GRANDFATHER TEACHINGS in limited detail. This will be followed by a discussion of the MEDICINE WHEEL. All Christians can readily adopt these teachings. At the same time, we can apply Bible references which may include the 10 Commandments and the Beatitudes, as well as other Biblical passages, to compare the similarities between Christianity and Indigenous faith teachings.

The 7 Grandfather Teachings: **Niizhwaaswi Gmishoomsinaan Kinoomaagewinan**



1 Wisdom Nibwaakaawin

The beaver represents wisdom because he uses his natural gift wisely for his survival. The beaver also alters his environment in an environmentally friendly and sustainable way for the benefit of his family.

To cherish knowledge is to know wisdom. Use sound judgment and the ability to discern inner qualities and relationships. Use good sense and form a good attitude and course of action. Listen and use the wisdom of elders, tribal leadership and spiritual leaders



#2 Love Zaagi'idiwin

The eagle represents love because he has the strength to carry all the teachings. The eagle has the ability to fly highest and closest to the Creator and also has the sight to see all the ways of being from great distances. The Eagle's teaching of love can be found in the core of all teachings, therefore an eagle feather is considered the highest honour and a sacred gift.

To know love is to know peace. Love is strong affection for another forming out of kinship or personal ties. Love is an attachment based upon devotion, admiration, tenderness, and kindness for all things around you. To love yourself is to live at peace with the Creator and in harmony with all creation.



3 Respect Minaadendamowin

Respect is represented by the buffalo. The buffalo gives every part of his being to sustain the human way living, not because he is of less value, but because he respects the balance and needs of others.

To honour all creation is to have respect. Show regard for the value of all persons or things through courteous consideration and appreciation. Honour our traditional roles and teachings. Honour our families, others, and ourselves. Don't hurt anything or anyone on the outside or the inside.