
Masonic Misconception

A misconception is defined as a delusion or misunderstanding.

Masonry is a religious sect.

Correction: Freemasonry is not a religion. It requires of its members belief in a 'Single Supreme Being' as part of the obligation of every responsible adult, but advocates no sectarian faith or practice...

"Masons believe that there is one God and that people may employ many different ways to seek and to express what they know of God... Freemasonry lacks the basic elements of religion; It has no dogma or theology, no wish or means to enforce religious orthodoxy... It does not claim to lead to salvation by works, by secret knowledge, or by any other means...

"Without interfering in religious practice, (Freemasonry) expects each member to follow his own faith and to place his Duty to God above all other duties." (M.S.A.)

A brief Masonic History:

The earliest records show a lodge meeting in Scotland in 1598.

The first Grand Lodge in the U.S.A. was established in Boston in 1733. Notable Masons have included Paul Revere, John Hancock, and Benjamin Franklin. Eighteen U.S. Presidents, from George Washington to Gerald Ford, have been Masons.

Some more recent noteworthy Masons include John Glenn, Norm Crosby, Arnold Palmer, Russ Francis, Ernest Borgnine, and Michael Richards (aka Seinfeld's Kramer).

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To share in the pride and help with the
work we do is as simple as joining a
Lodge near you.

To inquire about Masonic membership
in our Lodge or for other questions
call or email us at the Lodge.

Pamphlet credits:

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What would you do with \$3 million a day?

This is what we do with it:

**Shriners Burns Hospitals
Shriners Hospitals for Children
Masonic homes for the elderly
orphanages
scholarships
youth organizations
museums
Schizophrenia Research
Scottish Rite Learning Disabilities Centers
Scottish Rite Alzheimer's research
Muscular Dystrophy Clinics
Dentistry for the Handicapped
Multiple Sclerosis drives
Veterans' Hospital Visitation Programs
Knights' Templar Eye Foundation
... and more**



Questions and Answers

Q. What do the Shriners have to do with Masonry?

A. All Shriners are Masons. It was founded in the 1890's by a dozen Masons who wanted to extend their Masonic ideals.

Q. Why does Freemasonry exist?

A. For three primary reasons. To promote personal development by reinforcing moral principles, to assist those suffering unfortunate circumstances, and to foster friendship and cooperation among all people.

Q. Who benefits from Masonry?

A. Everybody. Masons believe that adherence to and practice of moral principles helps to shape individual characters, strengthen families, build communities, and improve societies overall.

Q. What religious precepts are reinforced in Masonry?

A. To invoke the blessing of Deity before engaging in any great or important undertaking. To regard all men for their quality of character rather than their material or external manifestations. To be charitable by contributing to the relief of those less fortunate than ourselves.

Q. What are the principal symbols used throughout Masonry?

A. *Square & Compasses*: The square teaches morality by impressing upon Masons to constantly square their actions with virtue. The compasses teach Masons to be well-rounded men by keeping their behavior within "due-bounds" by using caution and restraint.

Lambskin: The lamb has historically been an emblem of innocence; therefore, Masons wear a lambskin as their apron to remind them of the purity of life and conduct that is essentially necessary to gaining admission into heaven.

Holy Writings: All Masons declare a belief in Deity, and the Holy Writings are to be used as the guide by which they should live their lives.

Q. What moral principles are taught in the Entered Apprentice Degree?

A. *Brotherly Love*: By this principle Masons are taught to regard and care for all people as equals.

Relief: To relieve the distressed is the Grand Aim of Masonry and should be the motivation for all Masons to want to meet and grow.

Truth: Masons are taught to be good men and true; as a

result, sincerity and plain dealing distinguish any Mason.

Temperance: Masons are taught to be temperate in behavior and speech; to have patience and to avoid rash behavior.

Fortitude: This principle teaches Masons to have the strength of heart and mind to persevere in all noble endeavors.

Prudence: Masons are taught to apply prudence in constantly regulating their lives and actions agreeable to dictates of reason.

Justice: Masons are taught this principle to enable them to always render decisions that are equitable, bear common sense, and administer compassion.

Q. What are the principal symbols taught in the EA Degree?

A. *Twenty-Four Inch Gage*: This instrument teaches Masons to divide their time, leaving adequate time for work, family, and the service of Deity.

Common Gavel: This instrument teaches Masons to rid their minds and consciences of vices and superfluities, thereby leading a life that finds greater favor with Deity.

Q. What moral principles are taught in the Fellowcraft Degree?

A. *An Attentive Ear*: Masons are taught to listen patiently, carefully, and accurately; for everyone has their story.

An Instructive Tongue: In life, that knowledge be conveyed with quality and meaning. Masons are taught to speak and teach those who desire to learn.

A Faithful Breast: Masons are taught this principle to reinforce the importance of fidelity; to hold firm the ideals depicted in the Holy Writings.

Q. What are the principal symbols taught in the Fellowcraft Degree?

A. *Plumb*: The plumb teaches Masons righteousness; to walk uprightly in our several stations before God and Man.

Square: The square teaches morality by impressing upon Masons to constantly square their actions with virtue.

Level: The level is used to teach equality and is the basis on which all men should meet to work and communicate.

Brazen Pillars: These instruments teach a Mason that his life should be spent endeavoring to fill his soul with the virtues contained in the Holy Writings.

Winding Stairs: The winding stairs teach Masons that life is

an unending effort, an ascending journey to reach the gates of heaven.

Letter "G": This teaches Masons that, as Geometry reflects structure and order, so should Masons strive for structure and order in their lives and society. It also teaches us never to lose sight of Deity's Holy Word.

Q. What moral principles are taught in the Master Mason Degree?

A. *Friendship*: True friendship embodies truth and purity, honor, fidelity and confidence, principles that Masons are taught to embrace and practice at all times.

Morality: This principle is most strongly associated with Masonry. It reflects the mode of behavior and character that Masons are charged to practice.

Brotherly Love: By this principle, Masons are taught to regard and care for all people as equals.

Piety: This principle is taught so that Masons respect and maintain a devotion to religious duties, to family, to country, and to self.

Fidelity: Fidelity reinforces that a Mason is to be loyal to his devotions, particularly to his spouse and Deity.

Perseverance: By this principle Masons are taught that time and patience will accomplish all things.

Immortality: The hope of our soul receiving eternal life in heaven is a major lesson taught to Masons and encourages them to diligently attend the church of their choice to seek out their path to salvations.

Q. What are the principal symbols taught in the Master Mason Degree?

A. *Trowel*: This instrument teaches Masons to extend themselves and bond with others by spreading the cement of brotherly love and affections.

Trestleboard: This instrument teaches Masons to live their lives according to a set of instructions, found in the Holy Writings, that should be their spiritual, moral and Masonic guide.

Hour Glass: The Hour Glass impresses upon Masons the swiftness of life and the urgency to begin preparations for the soul's immortal journey.

Scythe: As an emblem of time, it teaches Masons to prepare the soul for that time when life leaves the body behind.