

Freemasonry

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Christianity and Freemasonry “Are They Compatible?”

Freemasonry may be a term or organization that is not familiar to you. Maybe you’ve seen the Masonic symbol of the compass, square, and all-seeing eye as you’ve entered a town. Maybe you’ve had relatives or friends who have been members of the Blue Lodge or one of its related organizations such as Eastern Star, Shriners, Demolay or other connected groups. Maybe you’re considering joining a local lodge or are already a dues-paying member. If you find yourself in this spectrum, we ask that you approach this pamphlet with prayer and that you not take statements personally, but that you seek the Spirit of Truth.

“Involvement in organizations that divide their loyalty to, or are in conflict with, Jesus Christ and the church should be avoided, including, but not limited to membership in any such lodge or secret order.” MDG Art xx. Sec 3B “Christian Life and Practice”

The purpose of this writing is to show how Masonic teaching is in conflict with Jesus and the scriptures. Although the Brethren in Christ Manual of Doctrine and Government (MDG) speaks of “lodges or secret orders” in a general way, this pamphlet will speak specifically to the Blue Lodge and the secret society of the Freemasons. That’s because the Masonic Order is the oldest, largest and most likely the “parent” of many other orders. This article is not intended to challenge Freemasons as persons, but to challenge the teaching of Freemasonry as to its compatibility with Biblical teaching. Indeed,

Freemasons may not feel in conflict with the Christian faith. In fact, many will contend that their membership in the lodge makes them a better Christian, churchman, father, parent, citizen, etc. The issue is the teachings of Freemasonry to which freemasons have knowingly and unknowingly pledged their allegiance. For a brother in Christ to declare the lordship of Jesus and at the same time swear allegiance to a Masonic Lodge and Brotherhood of Masons is incompatible and should be avoided or discontinued. (1 John 1:5b-7)

We presume two points in endeavoring to present a case for such incompatibility. First, a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ takes the teaching of scripture seriously and makes obedience a priority. Second, although Freemasons declare it not to be a religion, based upon its own authorities, teachings, and tenets, Freemasonry certainly qualifies as such. Unfortunately, most Freemasons are unaware of the deeper teachings and meanings, and thus only see the lodge as a service organization or fraternal club.

After examining the scriptural references that point out the areas of discrepancy between biblical teaching and Masonic teaching, it’s clear that membership in the lodge constitutes a dual allegiance and must be avoided or discontinued.

The Bible. Freemasonry denies the unique and authoritative character of the Bible as the Word of God by saying that it is no better or worse than any other holy book. “The Bible is used among Freemasons as a symbol of the

will of God, however it may be expressed. Therefore, whatever to any people expresses that will (of God) may be used as a substitute for the Bible in a Masonic Lodge....Old Testament (Jews)....Koran (Muslims)...Vedas (Brahman)"! Freemasonry teaches that every book of faith of every religion is to be revered equally. The biblical teaching is clear, the Bible is the only inspired, eternal Word of God. In the history of Christendom the Bible has been placed above all other "holy books". (2 Timothy 3:16,17; Matthew 4:4; Deuteronomy 8:3; I Peter 1:24, 25; Psalm 119: 89; 12:6, 19:7.8)

God. The God of Masonic teaching is often referred to as the Great Architect of the Universe who can be worshipped by all, whether they be Buddhist, Christian, Muslim or Hindu. Masonry teaches that God is unitarian not trinitarian and that He is an amalgamation of all gods. "(The Mason) may name Him (God) as he will; think of Him as he pleases; make Him impersonal law or personal and anthropomorphic; Freemasonry cares not...God, Great Architect of the Universe, Grand Artificer, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge above, Jehovah, Allah, Buddha, Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva, or Great Geometer."²

"Men have to decide whether they want a God like the ancient Hebrew Jahwehs; a partisan tribal god, with whom they can talk and argue and from whom they can hide if necessary; or a boundless, eternal universal, undenominational, and intentional Divine Spirit, so vastly removed from the speck called man, that he cannot be known, named or approached... Monotheism...violates Masonic principles, for it requires belief in a specific kind of Supreme Deity."³

In contrast to this the Bible teaches that the Christian God is the one true God—He is not an amalgamation of all gods. The Bible also teaches that it is only through Jesus Christ that God can be worshipped. It also teaches that God is triune, Father, Son and

Holy Spirit. (2 Chronicles 6:14; Isaiah 42:8; Deuteronomy 4:39; John 14: 6,7; I Timothy 2: 5; I John 2:22,23; John 1:1,14; Titus 2:13; John 5: 22,23)

In a related area, Freemasonry teaching blasphemes the name of God by associating it with pagan fertility gods such as Baal.⁴ The Bible affirms the holiness, separateness and majesty of God's name. Speaking of the Lord God in a way that equates Him to pagan gods is an offense to Him. Severe judgement fell upon Israel for combining worship of Jehovah with the worship of Baal and other pagan gods. (Exodus 20:2-7; Deuteronomy 6:4,5; 2 Kings 17:16,17; Jeremiah 32:35; 23:13)

Jesus and Prayer. The teaching of Freemasonry refuses to acknowledge that Jesus Christ is God⁵ or that He died for our sins⁶ and rose from the dead⁷. Christ is robbed of the honor and glory due His name. Such honor is given to lodge leaders who are referred to as "Worshipful Master" or "High Priest" and knelt before. In order not to offend any non-Christian Masons, the name of Jesus is deleted from passages of the Bible used in some rituals. Although not practiced in many lodges, offering a prayer "in Jesus' name" is contrary to Masonic Teaching due to its desire not to offend. In fact none of the twenty-eight prayers in Mackey's Masonic Ritualist (1867), is offered in the name of Christ. Contrast this with the biblical teaching that Jesus is truly God, came in the flesh, died for our sins and rose again. The Bible clearly commands us to call no one master except Jesus and to worship none other than God. (John 1:1-14; Phillipians 2: 9-11; Colossians 1:15, 2:9; I Corinthians 15: 4; Matthew 23:8-10; Matthew 4:10; Acts 10: 25,26; Revelation 22:8,9)

Sin and Salvation. Although freemasonry declares it offers no provision for salvation its rituals, symbols and declarations communicate otherwise. The white apron or lambskin so visible in pictures and funerals of masons is "a symbol of innocence, purity

and honor.”⁸ This is because, “The Lamb has in all ages been deemed an emblem of innocence. The lambskin is therefore to remind you of that purity of life and conduct which is so essentially necessary to your gaining admission to the Celestial Lodge above where the Supreme Architect of the universe presides.”⁹ Indeed Freemasonry declares that man can be saved by his own good works without faith in Jesus’ shed blood on the cross.¹⁰ The motto of Freemasonry is to “make good men better” thus denying that there is no one righteous. (Romans 3:10) In addition, Freemasonry refuses to warn its members about the dangers of an everlasting hell, choosing instead, to make men think they will automatically go to heaven when they die because of their good works.¹¹

The Bible is very clear. A person is saved only by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. It is also insistent and urgent in its warnings concerning the dangers of hell and that eternal life is offered only to those who “have the son.” (I Corinthians 2:14; Acts 4:12; Romans 4:5; Romans 10:9,10; Ephesians 2:8-10; I John 5:11,12; Matthew 7:21; 13:49,50; 25:31-46; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9)

Brotherhood. Freemasonry teaches that its members are in a solemn, spiritual bond to one another, irrespective of members’ faith or creeds.¹² The Bible forbids Christians from being unequally yoked with unbelievers. (2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 5:8-17)

Witness. Based on the premise of not being offensive to a non-Christian fellow lodge member, Freemasonry forbids a Christian Mason from witnessing about Jesus Christ to any fellow lodge members who are unsaved.¹³ We are commanded in scripture to be ready in season and out of season to give a reason for the hope that lies within us. Jesus commanded us to preach the gospel to everyone. (I Peter 3:15; Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15; Matthew 10:32,33)

Swearing Oaths. Persons seeking membership

in a Masonic lodge are required to swear oaths on a Bible or their own holy book. This is done in the name of God and such oaths involve reference to mutilation and the murder of human beings.¹⁴ The New Testament forbids the taking of oaths as well as taking God’s name in vain and committing murder. It also teaches that if a person swears an oath and if the implications are hidden from him, when he understands he is to confess his sin and repent. It is the duty of every Christian to break and renounce any evil oath that binds him to disobeying God and His Word. (Matthew 5:33-37; James 5:12; Exodus 20:7,13; Ephesians 5:11; I John 1:9)

Secrecy and Truth. Freemasons are bound by oaths to keep the valuable “truths” of the craft in strict confidence under the penalty of personal mutilation and death.¹⁵ The scripture tells us that it is the “truth” that is to set us free. Such good news is not meant to be kept secret nor hidden from anyone. (John 8:31,32; Matthew 10: 26, 27; John 18:20)

Thus, the incompatibility of Christianity and Freemasonry can be readily seen if one has the spiritual eyes to see. (I Corinthians 2:14) It is for these reasons, of divided loyalties and incompatible teaching, that we, as Brethren in Christ, expect our members to avoid or discontinue membership in Freemasonry.

Personal Plea. Having read the preceding statements; if you are a Freemason and declare yourself to be a devoted follower of Jesus Christ, then you must decide whether you will remain a Mason and deny the Lord and His scriptures or whether you will do the will of your Heavenly Father and leave Masonry.

Centuries ago the prophet Elijah challenged the people of God who had forsaken the true God and fallen into the grievous sin of idolatry. He warned them, “How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him” (I Kings 18:21).

This question remains true for Christian Masons today. If the Lord is God, then follow Him. Do not maintain the hypocrisy of claiming to be a Christian while living your life in an organization that denies everything Christian. Either follow God or follow Masonry.

ENDNOTES

- ¹ Albert Mackey, *Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry* (1966), p. 133; See also Henry W. Coil, *Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia* 1961, p. 520.
- ² Carl H. Claudy, *Introduction to Freemasonry* (three volumes), Washington, D.C., The Temple Publishers, 1984. II., p. 110.
- ³ Henry Wilson Coil, *Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia*. New York, Macoy Publishing and Masonic Supply. 1961, p. 516, 517; See also Albert Pike, *Morals & Dogma of the Current and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry*, 1966, p. 226; Albert Mackey, *Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, 1966, p. 8,9.
- ⁴ Malcolm C. Duncan, *Duncan's Masonic Ritual & Monitor*, 1974, P. 224, 225; 250, 251.
- ⁵ *Morals & Dogma.*, p. 525; See also Henry Clausen, *Practice & Procedure for the Scottish Rite*, 1981, p. 75-77; RS Clymen, *The Mysticism of Masonry*, 1900, p. 47; JD Burke, *Symbolism of Mystic Masonry*, 1925, p. 57.
- ⁶ Manly P. Hall, *The Lost Keys of Freemasonry*. 1976, p. 90,91.
- ⁷ *Morals & Dogma.*, p. 539.
- ⁸ Allen E. Roberts, *The Craft & Its Symbols: Opening the Door to Masonic Symbolism*, Richmond, VA, Macoy Publishing and Masonic Supply, 1954, p. 31
- ⁹ George Summons & Robert Macoy, *Standard Masonic Monitor of the Degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft & Master Mason*, Richmond, VA, Macoy Publishing & Masonic Supply, 1984, p.29.
- ¹⁰ Summons & Macoy. p. III, 125.
- ¹¹ *Masonic Monitor of the Degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft & Master Mason* (Arkansas: F&AM, 1983), p. 15, 68.
- ¹² Duncan, p. 36.
- ¹³ Pike, *Morals*, p. 167; Mackey, *Encyclopedia*, I:192; J Blanchard, *Scottish Rite Masonry Illustrated*, 1979, 2: 247.
- ¹⁴ DuDuncan, *Rituals*, p. 35, 65, 96.
- ¹⁵ "The Obligation of the Master Mason", the Stockton Herald, March 13-18; 1960.