

Help to a Brother

**FREEMASONRY**

Help to Mankind



**Man to Mason**

*A One-Day Adventure*

Saturday, October 2, 2004

1-800-990-1935

[www.pagrandlodge.org](http://www.pagrandlodge.org)

**Grand Lodge of  
Free and Accepted Masons  
of Pennsylvania**

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**ASK!**

And We'll Share

**THE LIGHT OF  
FREEMASONRY**

With YOU!

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## What is Freemasonry?

The Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons is the oldest, largest and most widely known fraternal organization in the world. Volumes have been written about it. Yet, to many, Freemasonry remains a mystery. Its bonds of friendship, compassion and brotherly love have survived even the most divisive political, military and religious conflicts through the centuries.

Though neither a forum nor a place for worship, the Fraternity is a friend of all religions which are based on the belief in a supreme being.

Some historians trace Freemasonry to the Tenth Century, B.C., during the building of King Solomon's Temple. Records reveal that Freemasonry was introduced into England in 926 A.D.

Freemasonry is directly descended from the association of operative masons, the cathedral builders of the Middle Ages, who traveled through Europe employing the secrets and skills of their crafts.

In the 17th Century, when cathedral building was on the decline, many guilds of stone masons, known as 'Operative Masons' or 'Free Masons', started to accept as members those who were not members of the Masons' craft, calling them 'speculative Masons' or 'Accepted Masons'. It was from these groups, comprised mostly of 'Adopted or Accepted Masons', that Symbolic Masonry or Freemasonry, as we know it today, had its beginning.

Today, there are more than 160 Grand Lodges in the world with a membership of more than 4.2 million.

In the United States there are 51 Grand Lodges (including the District of Columbia). There are approximately two million Freemasons in these Jurisdictions.

## What do Masons Believe In?

Freemasonry teaches high moral ethical standards and family values. Masons come from all religious beliefs (Catholic, Jewish, Protestant, etc.) which are based on the belief in one God. They are men bonded by friendship and brotherly love in service to mankind.

Freemasonry does not pretend to take the place of religion nor serve as a substitute for the religious beliefs of its members.

- It teaches monotheism.
- It teaches the Golden Rule.
- It seeks to make good men better through its firm belief in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man.

## What do Masons Do?

The Freemasons of America contribute more than two million dollars every day to charitable causes which they, alone, have established. These services to mankind represent an unparalleled example of the humanitarian commitment and concern of this unique and honorable Fraternity.

## Freemasonry in Pennsylvania

The Freemasons of Pennsylvania founded and support the Pennsylvania Youth Foundation to build character and develop leadership skills among young men and women. Aid for education is available through several scholarship programs. They support the Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program (DARE) and the Child Identification Program (CHIP) in their continuing service to mankind.

The Children's Learning Centers of the 32° Masons treat children afflicted with dyslexia free of charge. Shriners hospitals are free of charge for children with orthopedic and burn problems. There are four Masonic Villages offering both independent and assisted living facilities for senior citizens. These are only a few of the services the Fraternity provides.

## Qualifications

Freemasonry is proud of its philosophy and practice of *making good men better*. Only individuals believed to be of the finest character are favorably considered for membership which is limited to adult males 18 years of age, mentally competent, and of good moral character.

One of the customs of Freemasonry is not to solicit members. One seeking admission must have a desire and ask one whom he believes to be a Mason. He must be recommended by two Master Masons, one of whom must be a member of the Lodge the petitioner wishes to join, and pass a unanimous ballot.

The basic unit of Freemasonry is the Symbolic Lodge, or 'Blue Lodge', as it is commonly known. It is the Symbolic Lodge that issues petitions for initiation and membership, acts on petitions and confers the Three Symbolic Degrees, known as the

- Entered Apprentice
- Fellow Craft
- Master Mason

There are 455 Symbolic Lodges in Pennsylvania with a membership of nearly 130,000.

## What is Not Freemasonry

Freemasonry is not an insurance or beneficial society. It is not organized for profit. However, the charity and services rendered are beyond measure.

## Tenets of Freemasonry

The Tenets of Freemasonry are ethical principles that are acceptable to all good men.

- It teaches tolerance toward all mankind.
- Freemasonry consists of men bound together by bonds of Brotherly Love and Affection.
- It dictates to no man as to his beliefs, either religious or secular. It seeks no advantage for its members through business or politics.
- Freemasonry is not a forum for discussion on partisan affairs.

### Freemasonry is:

- Kindness in the home
- Honesty in business
- Courtesy in society
- Fairness in work
- Pity and concern for the unfortunate
- Resistance toward evil
- Help for the weak
- Forgiveness for the penitent
- Love for one another

and above all

- Reverence and love for God
- Contrary to what many believe, Freemasonry is not a secret society. There has been no attempt to conceal the purpose, aims and principles of the Fraternity. It is an organization formed and existing on the broad basis of brotherly love, relief and truth.

Freemasonry is many things, but, most of all:

## FREEMASONRY IS A WAY OF LIFE



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