

DISCOURSE

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“What a Mason or Masonry is **NOT**?”

Dear Brothers:

Once again, we come to you and thank you for your indulgence in allowing this Discourse to come to your email box. Today we would like to discuss Masonry and perhaps instead of telling you what Masonry is, it would be easier to tell you what Masonry is **NOT**.

The Blue or Symbolic Lodge is **NOT** a club. A club by definition is “an association of people with some common interest who meet periodically.” A Masonic Lodge does have men of like mind with common interest that meets on a regular basis with scheduled meetings all year long, year after year. We have opening and closing ceremonies set by rituals that have been defined and practiced for close to 400 years. With a system of laws and regulations that are over 180 years old. It is not governed by any form of rules that may be used by any other organization known to man except some other Masonic related organizations who have copied our laws, rules and regulations.

It is **NOT** a private or good ole boys club, in the sense that it is to be controlled by very few members; this is a place where the Master is supreme and yet has limited powers. NO Brother should take advantage of any other Brother more especially the Master, nor use the Masters Authority to abuse his privileges. The Lodge at all times with the guidance of the Master should follow the majorities wishes of the Brethren assembled. Always doing what is best for the majority, the Lodge belongs to all. The duties and responsibilities as well as rights and privileges are to be equal among the Brethren, with the exception that Officers may have greater duties and responsibilities, which the Brothers should always assist in their performance.

It is **NOT** a place to come to seek wealth, charity, recognition, reprisal, business opportunities, political advancement and religious confirmations. Masons give of their wealth to charitable endeavors. They do not seek charity for themselves but give of themselves to charity. They perform their duties and responsibilities without the need for recognition and they do it for the greater good of all, not themselves. They seek no reprisal or mercenary actions against their Brother or member of society. They do not seek business opportunities, but give of their business sponsoring causes representative of Masonic Principles. It is not a Political Party, does not discuss politics, it is not a recruiting place for political purposes and it is against it laws, rules and regulations to do so in the Lodge or use any means thereof for such purpose. The very same shall apply to religious discussions. However, we encourage all of our members to be Good Citizens. Get involved in the issues confronting them in their local, state and national civic duties. To be Good Servants to their God regardless of faith and to practice their religion according to their mandates and in both instances do the very best they can for the greater good of mankind.

It is **NOT** a place to come looking for social status and higher positions in life. The work performed on behalf of and for Masonry should not be a tool to gain status or higher positions in Masonry or community, for Masons perform their duties and responsibilities out of Love for Fraternity, Brethren and Community. Masons learn in Masonry to improve themselves in the spiritual and moral growth and development, not in wealth, status, or social appearances.

In a society of instant gratification, of self-indulgence, where me, myself and I are first and most important it is easy to understand why some individuals that join, Masonry cannot understand the principles and tenants of this centuries old Fraternity or Brotherhood of men.

Therefore, I will attempt to clear this misunderstanding. Masonry is all about personal growth and development of the moral and spiritual side of men. Masonry is all about a life of volunteerism, sacrifice, selflessness, dedication and giving. A Mason is all about exemplifying all of the qualities previously mentioned, as Masonry is more than a Fraternal Institution, Masonry is a way of Life.

Masonry is a Society of Gentlemen that follows a philosophy of higher moral, ethics, and ideology of a Brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God, anything else contrary to that line of thinking is not Masonry and should never be allowed to see the light of day in any Masonic Association.

Respectfully and Fraternaly Submitted, I remain your most humble servant

Jorge L. Aladro
Senior Grand Warden

If you would like to receive, these newsletters make request at email below if you would like to forward to your list of friends you have my permission and thank you in advance.

“My Brothers, the newsletters are intended to be thought provoking, to get you to think creatively, to get you thinking what if?, to dare you to improve yourself and your Lodge.”

Note: If you would, like to have any of these presentations made at your Lodge or District Associations feel free to call.

“Masons always rise to the occasion”

Comments can be send to jlageorge@bellsouth.net