

The Truth about Freemasonry

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The Truth About Freemasonry

Freemasonry is one of the oldest and largest fraternal organizations in the world. Members claim that the organization is dedicated to the benevolent ideals of charity, equality, morality, and service to a divine being. Millions of dollars are donated to charitable projects by the Masonic order every year. Masons provide various types of relief for people in distress including educational scholarships for young people. Their gifts also filter into hospitals, orphanages, and homes for the elderly.

Behind the public work of the Masons are secret symbols and rituals which play a unique and important role in their fellowship. Members sometimes dress in elaborate costumes while participating in ceremonies that appear to be allegoric dramas. Though there have been several books printed in recent decades revealing what goes on behind their closed doors, these Masonic rituals were designed to be carefully guarded secrets. The Freemasons who participate in them vow never to disclose the hidden activities of Masonic lodges.

Although most members view them as merely representations of various tools and practices found in the building trades, higher-ranking leaders of the order understand that many of these symbols and ceremonies reflect ancient mystery religions. For this reason, Masons remain ambiguous when it comes to religion and commonly refer to a deity as the “Great Architect of the Universe.”

Freemasonry is Not Christian

Members of Freemasonry reach into the multiple millions. The organization also boasts that numerous people of great prominence are recorded as being among their ranks such

as King Edward VII, George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Paul Revere, Sam Houston, Will Rogers, Henry Ford, Charles Lindbergh, King Edward VIII, Douglas MacArthur, Harry Truman, Edwin Aldrin, and many others of notoriety. On the larger world scene, the Masonic order also maintains that their membership has included such notable men as King Frederick II of Prussia, Austrian composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and French philosopher Voltaire.

Though many highly regarded men have been members of Freemasonry, were they Christians? Did they indeed follow Christ by imitating His example of keeping God's commandments? Or, is it possible that following the teachings of the Masonic order caused these men to be led away from the truth contained in the Scriptures? For those who desire to obey God and also become a member of Freemasonry, perhaps the greatest question is, can a Christian pledge allegiance to God as well as Freemasonry?

The Truth about Freemasonry

Candidates who desire membership in this fraternity must apply of their own volition. Once accepted, the initiate is sworn to secrecy regarding their rites of passage. He then can join the Blue Lodge having three degrees; each of which represents a different level of standing within the craft. Upon acquiring the third degree of Master Mason, the individual may apply to join either the Scottish Rite or an associated fraternity called the York Rite. The first level in the Scottish Rite begins at the fourth degree with members progressing through 29 consecutive steps—the highest being an honorary 33rd degree Mason. The greatest level attained in the York Rite is the Orders of the Commandery and Knights Templar.

While many Freemasons are decent, law abiding, citizens, and may be known for performing philanthropic works, members and non-members alike are usually shocked to learn the truth regarding the origins and symbols of the fraternity. As layer after layer of direct quotations from Masonic writings unmask the nature of this ancient craft, the evidence

reveals that much of the dogma of Freemasonry is in direct conflict with the Word of God.

Today, researchers of the fraternity may find a vast array of anti-Masonic books, articles, and web sites that make many surprising assertions and allegations about the order. Some of these proclaim that the movement's beginnings are rooted in the ancient Illuminati—a secret satanic group whose leaders conspire to control the world.

While such accusations seem exaggerated to outsiders, they appear ludicrous to Masons who believe that their organization exists solely to bring men together for the purpose of doing good works. However, is it possible that the organization is in conflict with the Bible?

You Shall Have No Other Gods before Me

Does Freemasonry actually lead its members to break God's commandments? The answer begins to emerge as the single most important condition for membership is examined. Candidates are required to profess a belief in one god. Initially, this prerequisite may not appear to be in conflict with Christianity. Believers may even conclude that Freemasonry might encourage belief in the true God. However, nothing could be further from the truth. Freemasonry does not encourage faith in the God of the Bible. While requiring belief in a single god, their practice fosters belief in any god that one may choose. An official *Freemasons Guide* published in 1947 states:

Monotheism is the sole dogma of Freemasonry. Belief in one God is required of every initiate, but his conception of the Supreme Being is left to his own interpretation. Freemasonry is not concerned with theological distinctions. This is the basis of our universality (*Indiana Monitor and Freemasons Guide*, p. 38).

To believe in one god is a fundamental condition for membership in Freemasonry. Nevertheless, this condition is accompanied by tolerance of everyone's idea of who, and what, that god is. Any believed deity will do. Far from being harmless,

this requirement actually encourages belief in false gods. Masonic author Allen E. Roberts explained:

You have learned that Freemasonry calls God, ‘The Great Architect of the Universe’ (G.A.O.T.U.). This is the Freemason’s special name for God, because he is universal. He belongs to all men regardless of their religious persuasion. All wise men acknowledge His authority. In his private devotions a Mason will pray to Jehovah, Mohammed, Allah, Jesus or the Deity of his choice (*The Craft and Its Symbols*, p. 6).

The religious inclusiveness was noted in the *Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry* by one of their most respected members:

“Be assured,” says Godfrey Higgins, “that God is equally present with the pious Hindu in the temple, the Jew in the synagogue, the Mohammedan in the mosque, and the Christian in the church” (*Mackey’s Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, v. 1, v. pp. 409-410).

The belief that God is found in all forms of worship is diametrically opposed to the teaching of the Bible. We are not allowed to worship any god of our choosing. In fact, the Bible confirms that there is only one God, and only one way to worship Him! He is revealed in the Scriptures as “YHWH,” or “the Eternal,” never by the unbiblical names sanctioned by Masons. The true God made a profound claim through the prophet Isaiah, stating:

I am the LORD, and there is no other; there is no God besides Me... I have made the earth, And created man on it. I—My hands—stretched out the heavens, and all their host I have commanded... To whom will you liken Me, and make Me equal and compare Me, that we should be alike? ... Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me (Isaiah 45:5-46:9).

The Eternal stands as the only true God. Any other god is false. In addition, the only way to properly worship Him is by what He decrees. The prophet Jeremiah recognized this truth and wrote:

O LORD, I know the way of man *is* not in himself;
It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps
(Jeremiah 10:23).

Matthew also recorded the words of Christ who warned all Christians, stating:

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves... Therefore by their fruits you will know them. Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven (Matthew 7:15-21).

Masonic acceptance of other gods is in direct opposition to Christ's teaching. While they might profess belief in one god, and may even quote the Bible during their rituals, they sanction any religion you wish as long as the member performs "good works."

For this reason, Masons are taught that their craft exists for the purpose of doing noble activities such as helping the needy. In spite of the appearance of good, the spiritual fruit of Masonic doctrine is the acceptance of false gods. It will be demonstrated that their aim is to spread the ancient Gnostic practice of seeking spiritual enlightenment through mystical knowledge. As the Freemasonry scholar, Albert Mackey, wrote:

The purpose of Freemasonry is neither charity nor almsgiving, nor the cultivation of the social sentiment; for both of these are merely incidental to its organization; but it is the search after truth, and that truth is the unity of God and the immortality of the soul (*Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, vol. 1, p. 278).

Understanding their acceptance of all religions, what they mean by “the unity of God” is the worship of any believed supreme being. They actually propagate the ancient heresy that all the gods are one. But the God of the Bible declares that there are no other gods, and that we cannot worship Him in any way we might choose. Any manmade ideas are false.

They also state that the foundational purpose of Freemasonry is to express “the immortality of the soul.” Contrary to this belief, the Bible does not teach that the soul is immortal. The Scriptures boldly proclaim that God alone has immortality (1Ti. 6:15-16). The belief that mankind has an immortal soul is a pagan myth adopted by Freemasonry.

Additionally, the apostle Paul warned Christians that the wages of sin are death (Rom. 6:23). And the prophet Ezekiel recorded God’s words to Israel, stating:

Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die (Ezekiel 18:4).

God is sovereign over the entire universe. Realizing this, people are to worship Him alone. God made this clear when addressing the Israelites from Mount Sinai. High upon this mountain, the Eternal thundered the Ten Commandments. The first of these declares:

I *am* the LORD your God... You shall have no other gods before Me (Exodus 20:2-3).

The first commandment proclaims that we cannot design our own version of a supreme being. Buddha, Allah, Krishna, or any other fabricated deity is not okay according to the Bible. Yet, the fundamental rules for membership in Freemasonry encourage members to accept belief in any god and that they all point to the same being. However, the Almighty declares:

For all the gods of the peoples *are* idols (Psalm 96:5).

Freemasons actually take their doctrine a dangerous step further. They teach a philosophical fiction that different religions actually worship the same being. In the *Introduction to Freemasonry*, Carl Claudy described the Masonic view:

In his private devotions a man may petition God or Jehovah, Allah or Buddha, Mohammed or Jesus; he may call upon the God of Israel or the Great First Cause. In the Masonic Lodge he hears petition to the Great Architect of the Universe, finding his own deity under that name. A hundred paths may wind upward around a mountain; at the top they meet. Freemasonry opens the Great Light upon her altar not as one book of one faith, but as all books of all faiths (p. 38).

Freemasonry teaches that various religions are only different roads leading to the same place. This falsehood greatly misleads people. Requiring that members simply believe in a single god of their choosing, the fraternity tries to validate many false religions. This philosophy conflicts with the Word of God. Inspired text states that there is only one true God and it repeatedly hammers out a parallel theme on the anvil of its pages—there is only one way to worship Him!

In addition to this inclusive approach, Freemasonry requires its members to perform rites that are related to the worship of false gods. For example, in his official encyclopedia, Albert Mackey explained how the craft reaches back through the corridor of time to adopt symbols and rituals used in ancient mystery religion. One such ceremony illustrates this point:

But Freemasonry must be looked at also from another standpoint. Not only does it present the appearance of a speculative science, based on an operative art, but it also very significantly exhibits itself as the symbolic expression of a religious idea. In other and plainer words, we see in it the important lesson of eternal life, taught by a legend which, whether true or false, is used in Freemasonry as a symbol and an allegory...

This legend of the Third Degree as we now have it, and as we have had it for a certain period of two hundred and fifty years, is intended, by a symbolic representation, to teach the resurrection from death, and the Divine dogma of eternal life. All Freemasons know its character, and it is neither expedient nor necessary to dilate upon it.

But can we find such a legend elsewhere? Certainly we can... Thus, in the Egyptian Mysteries of Osiris, the image of a dead man was borne in an *argha*, ark or coffin, by a procession of initiates; and this enclosure in the coffin or interment of the body was called the *aphanism*, or disappearance, and the lamentation for him formed the first part of the Mysteries.

On the third day after the interment, the priests and initiates carried the coffin, in which was also a golden vessel, down to the river Nile. Into the vessel they poured water from the river; and then with a cry of "We have found him, let us rejoice," they declared that the dead Osiris, who had descended into Hades, had returned from thence, and was restored again to life; and the rejoicings which ensued constituted the second part of the Mysteries.

The analogy between, this and the legend of Freemasonry must be at once apparent. Now, just such a legend, everywhere differing in particulars, but everywhere coinciding in general character, is to be found in all the old religions—in sun worship, in tree worship, in animal worship. It was often perverted, it is true, from the original design. Sometimes it was applied to the death of winter and the birth of spring, sometimes to the setting and the subsequent rising of the sun, but always indicating a *loss* and a *recovery*.

Especially do we find this legend, and in a purer form, in the Ancient Mysteries. At Samothrace, at Eleusis, at Byblos—in all places where these ancient religions and mystical rites were celebrated—we find the same teachings of eternal life inculcated by the representation of an imaginary death and apotheosis. And it is this legend, and this

legend alone, that connects Speculative Freemasonry with the Ancient Mysteries of Greece, of Syria, and of Egypt (*Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, vol. 1, pp. 87-88).

The Masons admit that the legend of the Third Degree, carried out in a ritual performed behind closed doors, is directly related to ancient pagan rites. Borrowed from the primitive mystery religions, this ceremony reflects heretical forms of veneration and reverence for the false gods. The true God forbids such ritual. The Almighty warned ancient Israel, and He warns true Christians today, with these words:

Observe and obey all these words which I command you, that it may go well with you and your children after you forever, when you do *what is* good and right in the sight of the LORD your God. When the LORD your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land, take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.' You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way; for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods. Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it (Deuteronomy 12:28-32).

Some may think that Freemasons are not really worshipping pagan gods, and that such rituals are harmless. However, consider a famous axiom which states "that which we permit, becomes that which we promote." This simple statement declares an enormous truth. When applied to the ceremonies of Freemasonry, by accepting use of their symbols, and participation in their rituals, this causes individuals to promote the worship of pagan and false gods.

Such acceptance is more sinister than most realize. Extremely powerful, and outrageously deceptive, Satan is actually the god with a thousand names that they unknowingly promote. It is this fallen angel who is obeyed by the various false religions. Under the guise of differing beliefs and names, these various paths lead to the devil. The Apostle Paul described this evil being stating:

The god of this world has blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them (KJV, 2Corinthians 4:4).

The god of this world is Satan the devil. The reason he is referred to as a god is because most people allow themselves to follow his wicked ways, instead of obeying the true God. Satan has duped millions into believing that all the differing creeds will lead people to the same Supreme Being. This is not the case. There is only one narrow path that leads to God and all other roads lead to the worship of demons. As Paul wrote:

Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons (1Corinthians 10:20-21).

The fundamental teaching of Freemasonry propagates heresy and thereby breaks the first and great commandment. As Christ reiterated:

For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve" (Matthew 4:10).

You Shall Have No Carved Images

Another Masonic practice that is in direct conflict with God stems from the many different symbols the craft utilizes. The vast majority of these are blatant forms of idolatry.

Consider the most recognizable symbol in all of Freemasonry; the letter G. Albert Pike, a onetime grand commander of the lodge, explained that this letter was originally Y, the first letter of God's sacred name YHWH. Later the letter was modified to G to reflect the English term God. Today, G is understood by Masons to reflect their God as they refer to him as the Grand Designer, Great Architect, or Grand Geometrician of the Universe.

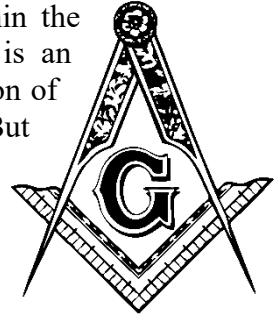
This symbol is placed within a square and compass and is found in virtually every Masonic lodge. In most buildings it is positioned over the individual who is referred to as the "worshipful master" seated at the eastern end of the lodge meeting room. A century old Freemason publication states:

Even a stranger, entering a Masonic Lodge room must be struck by a mysterious Letter which hangs over the chair of the Master in the East. No one need tell him its meaning; it is a letter of light and tells its own story. Yet no stranger can know its full import, much less how old it is. Indeed, few Masons are aware of all that it implies, either as symbol or history. There it shines, a focus of faith and fellowship, the emblem of the Divine Presence in the Lodge, and in the heart of each Brother composing it. Thus, in the course of the Degrees, the great Letter has descended from heaven to earth, as if to show us the deep meaning of Masonry. In other words, the purpose of initiation is to bring God and man together, and make them one... In all the old houses of initiation, as far back as we can go, some one letter of the alphabet stands as a kind of Divine initial. In the Egyptian Mysteries it was the "Solar Ra," a symbol of the Spiritual Sun shining upon the mortal path. In the Greek Mysteries at Delphi it was the letter "E"—Eta—the fifth letter of the Greek alphabet; five being the symbol of man, as evidenced by the five senses. (*Short Talk Bulletin*, The Masonic Service Association of the North America, July 1927, Vol. V, #7).

The worshipful master presides over meetings while sitting under the letter G. He is regarded as the light giver of the lodge. The *Short Talk Bulletin* continues:

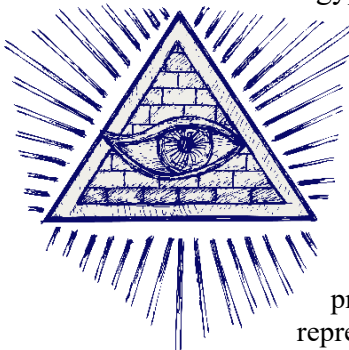
If one were asked to sum up the meaning of Masonry in one word, the only word equal to the task is - light! From its first lesson to its last lecture, in every degree and every symbol, the mission of Masonry is to bring the light of God into the life of man. It has no other aim, knowing that when the light shines the truth will be revealed... A Lodge of Masons is a House of Light. Symbolically it has no roof but the sky, open to all the light of nature and of grace. As the sun rises in the East to open and rule the day, so the Master rises in the East to open and guide the Lodge, in its labor (Vol. V, # 4, April 1927).

Even the Masonic G placed within the architect tools of a square & compass is an emblem used to represent whatever version of God the Freemason wants to believe in. But this is not the only symbol they use to represent a deity.



The Masonic order also borrowed the Egyptian all seeing eye which is a single human eye surrounded by radiating beams of light. Said to portray the watchfulness of a supreme being, the eye appears on the walls of temples and tombs in

Egypt. Mackey explained the origin of this symbol stating:



The open eye was selected as the symbol of watchfulness, and the eye of God as the symbols of Divine watchfulness and care of the universe... On the same principle, the Egyptians represented Osiris, their chief deity, by the symbol of an open eye, and

placed this hieroglyphic of him in all their temples... The All-Seeing Eye may then be considered as a symbol of God manifesting his omnipresence—his guardian and preserving character... It is a symbol of the Omnipresent Deity (*Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, vol. 1, pp. 52-53).

The claim is that this symbol is representative of God. However, in their words, the figure is not Christian. This emblem actually portrays the ancient Egyptian deity Osiris. As J.C. Cooper explained in his book regarding traditional symbols:

Known as the “Eye of Horus” or “Utchat Eye”, it is associated with both the Egyptian god Horus and his father Osiris (*An Illustrated Encyclopedia of Traditional Symbols*, p. 20).

The “all seeing eye” is nothing more than an idol. It represents a false god that the Bible condemns. The true God rescued His people out of Egypt for the express purpose of removing them from the influence of false gods such as Horus and Osiris. He then commanded Israel never to use any symbol to represent Him. God warned them and He warns us today through the prophet Ezekiel stating:

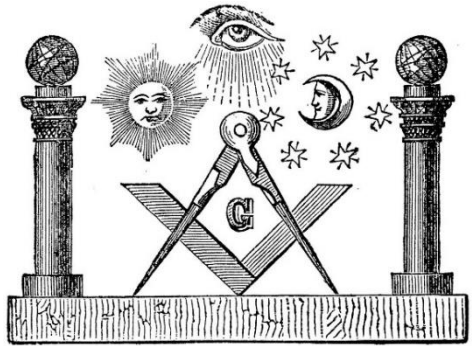
Each of you, throw away the abominations which are before his eyes, and do not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt. I *am* the LORD your God (Ezekiel 20:7).

Masonic Lodges have numerous ungodly symbols, and images of heavenly bodies such as the sun and moon, stars and angels. These symbols are used ceremonially and religiously. Christians should not participate in gatherings where such emblems exist. The Great God of the Bible confirmed this with the following words:

Take careful heed to yourselves, for you saw no form when the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the

midst of the fire, lest you act corruptly and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of any figure: the likeness of male or female, the likeness of any animal that *is* on the earth or the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air, the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground or the likeness of any fish that *is* in the water beneath the earth. And *take heed*, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and *when* you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which the LORD your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage (Deuteronomy 4:15-19).

God stated that he took no form when appearing to Israel. His purpose for this was to discourage people from making anything to portray Him. This illustrates the fact that we are not to use any



symbols found in heaven or earth to represent God! When giving the second commandment, God's intent went much further than simply carved images. We are forbidden to use any form or object to picture the Almighty or his angels.

The symbols of Freemasonry transgress God's second commandment. Whether a Mason knows it or not, he has been led to a temple where such representations are a part of ceremonies in which he participates. Christians are to worship God in spirit and truth (John 4:24). Accordingly, true believers should not be a part of the Masonic society which fosters the use of false religious symbols.

The Bible in Freemasonry

The Bible is the most significant set of documents ever written. Recorded by a minimum of 40 authors, and spanning thousands of years, this magnificent volume carries a unity of

ethical and moral thought that proves one majestic mind inspired its contents.

There is an enormous difference between the Bible and other books. Various theologians may explain their personal view of God, or how they believe man should live, but the Bible declares it to be the revelation of God to mankind. Without apology, the Bible declares that it is the recorded Word of God and the absolute moral authority. The Apostle Paul noted the importance of the Scriptures while instructing Timothy:

But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work (2Timothy 3:14-17).

Freemasons sometimes quote the Bible in their rituals. Nevertheless, the Masonic order actually puts itself above God's authority in an attempt to be inclusive to all creeds. Notice how they teach that the Bible can be substituted by any book a member believes to be holy:

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 may be used as a substitute for the Bible in a Masonic Lodge. Thus in a Lodge consisting entirely of Jews, the Old Testament alone may be placed upon the altar, and Turkish Freemasons make use of the Koran. Whether it be the Gospels to the Christian, the Pentateuch to the Israelite, the Koran to the Mussulman, or the Vedas to the Brahman, it everywhere Masonically conveys the same idea—that of the symbolism of the Divine Will revealed to man

(*Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, vol. 1, p. 133).

According to Masonic doctrine, God's Word alone is not comprised of divinely inspired law, accurate prophecy, and historical writings from divinely chosen people. The order actually believes that the Bible is only symbolic of these things. They promote the idea that any professed "holy" book is just as valid as the Bible. Mackey continues:

Masonically, the *Book of the Law* is that sacred book which is believed by the Freemason of any particular religion to contain the revealed will of God; although technically, among the Jews, the Torah, or *Book of the Law* means only the Pentateuch or five books of Moses. This to the Christian Freemason, the *Book of the Law* is the Old and New Testament; to the Mussulman, the Koran; to the Brahman, the Vedas; and the Parsee, the Zendavesta (ibid, p. 147).

Such diversity of accepted "holy" books reveal that the Masonic order promotes three views of the Bible:

1. The book is only symbolic.
2. Freemasons are not required to believe its teachings.
3. Other books may be substituted for the Bible.

These perspectives help to explain their acceptance of false gods and pagan religions. While the Scriptures may be thought of as a part of framework of their rituals, and even written on furniture and buildings of Masonic temples, God's printed word is certainly not obeyed. Because of this, Masons are in direct conflict with the Bible and the God it stands for.

You Shall Not Take the Name of God in Vain

Candidates of Freemasonry are required to accept the fundamental Masonic doctrine. Members must believe in a higher power, but the source of that power is left for the individual to decide. Whether it is Jehovah, Mohammed,

Ashtoreth, Allah, Christ, or Baal, it simply does not matter to the Freemasons. However, if those who claim to believe in the God of the Bible desire to become a Freemason, they are required to use pagan symbols and names when referring to Him. Such behavior displays immense disrespect for God and transgresses the third commandment which states:

You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold *him* guiltless who takes His name in vain (Exodus 20:7).

In addition to interchangeably using the names of false gods with that of the true God, Freemasons are required to address the leader of their lodge as “worshipful master.” Consider the blasphemous title of this Masonic office:

Worshipful. A titled applied to a Symbolic Lodge and its Master (*Mackey’s Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, vol. 2, p. 1120). The Master of Light and Life, the Sun and the Moon, are symbolized in every Lodge by the Master and Wardens: and this makes it the duty of the Master to dispense light to the Brethren, by himself, and through the Wardens, who are his ministers (*Morals and Dogma*, p. 13).

These expressions refer to an individual that deserves to be worshipped. But God the Father and Christ are the only beings who deserve worship! Even the holy angels recognize this truth. Consider the revelation of Christ to the Apostle John:

Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. Then he said to me, “See *that you do not do that*. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God (Revelation 22:8-9).

As glorious holy angels are, they would never allow anyone to consider them worthy of worship. The Scriptures

make this point clear. Christ is the only Worshipful Master we are to have:

You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only
you shall serve (Luke 4:8).

In light of these words, referring to any human being as a worshipful master is an obvious transgression of both the first and third commandments. Neither angels nor men deserve to be worshipped. Such reverence is reserved only for God. Even if this expression used by Freemasons is simply a matter of semantics, the context expresses heresy.

The same goes for the Masonic expression “master.” In the context of how it is used, master is a word that means our spiritual Teacher, Rabbi, or Lord. Notice what Christ said about such expressions:

But you, do not be called ‘Rabbi’; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ (Matthew 23:8-10).

When used in the context of a spiritual Master, Teacher, Rabbi, Lord, or Father, these terms are offices that belong to God. Referring to the presiding officer of a lodge as the “worshipful master” takes God’s name in vain. Nevertheless, this is not the only case where this transgression occurs.

During the closing ceremonies of the ritual for the royal arch degree, the candidate is asked, “Brother inspector, what are you?” To this he must reply “I Am that I Am.” These two words, “I Am,” are actually an expression God has used when referring to Himself. The Eternal appeared to Moses and revealed Himself to the patriarch stating:

I AM WHO I AM... The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob... This *is* My name forever, and this *is* My memorial to all generations (Exodus 3:13-15).

God stated that this was His name forever. By casually using this expression in their ungodly rituals, Freemasons unknowingly show enormous disrespect for the name of God. True Christians should have no part in any organization that practices such insolence.

In another example, Freemasonry states that a vital requirement for membership in the lodge is that they must have “a belief in a Supreme Being.” However, “Masonry does not attempt to define or delineate how a person should pray or to whom worship should be addressed” (<http://www.masonicinfo.com/member.htm>, retr. 7/21/2014). To them, any god will do. Such double talk is an absolute abomination to God who desires that all people recognize Him as the only true God and only His name as Holy.

To further expound on this reality, consider the philosophy of a Canadian author, lecturer, astrologer, mystic, and Freemason who shows that God’s commandments carry little weight in Masonic thought:

The true Mason is not creed-bound. He realizes with the divine illumination of his Lodge that as a true Mason his religion must be universal: Christ, Buddha or Mohammed, the name means little, for he recognizes only the light and not the bearer. He worships at every shrine, bows before every altar, whether in a temple, mosque or cathedral, realizing with his truer understanding the oneness of all spiritual truth. All true Masons know that they only are heathen who, having great ideals, do not live up to them. They know that all religions are but one story told in divers ways for people whose ideals differ but whose great purpose is in harmony with Masonic ideals (Manly P. Hall, *The Lost Keys of Freemasonry or The Secret of Hiram Abiff*, p. 65).

The Grand Lodge of Louisiana was also quoted as holding this same view. In a 1980 printing of the *Louisiana Masonic Monitor*, they wrote:

To the altar of Freemasonry all men bring their most votive offerings. Around it all men, whether they have received their teaching from Confucius, Zoroaster, Moses, Mohammed or the founder of the Christian Religion, just so long as they believe in the universality of the Fatherhood of God or the Brotherhood of man meet upon a common level (p. 133).

Masons try to synchronize the various man-made gods with the true God in a kind of deified spiritual goulash of words and ritual. Such practice is blasphemous and transgresses the first three of the Ten Commandments.

Swear Not at All

Freemasonry also contradicts the direct command of Christ by their requirement that initiates take an oath never to reveal any part of their rituals on pain of death. The oath of secrecy states:

'I... of my own free will and accord, in the presence of Almighty God and this Worshipful Lodge, erected to Him and dedicated to the Holy Saint John, do hereby and hereon most solemnly and sincerely promise and swear that I will always hail, ever conceal, and never reveal any of the secret arts, parts or points of the hidden mysteries of Ancient Freemasonry, which have been heretofore, may at this time, or shall at any future period be communicated to me as such, to any person whomsoever... To all of this I most solemnly and sincerely promise and swear, with a firm and steadfast resolution to keep and perform the same without any equivocation, mental reservation, or secret evasion of mind whatever, binding myself under no less a penalty than that of having my throat cut across, my tongue torn out by its roots and buried in the rough sands of the sea at low water mark, where the tide ebbs and flows twice in twenty four hours, should I ever knowingly or willingly violate

this my solemn oath or obligation as an Entered Apprentice Mason (<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/melvyn1/page4.html>, retr. 7/21/2014).

Mankind simply does not have the wisdom, or the authority, to fulfill such an obligation. For this reason, the Savior commanded:

But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one (Matthew 5:34-37).

Christ made it clear that we are not to swear an oath such as those designed by Freemasonry. The Masonic order is again in conflict with the Word of God.

In Secret I Have Said Nothing

The order of Freemasonry makes use of rituals, handshakes, and symbols that are of a secret nature. Ostensibly this is said to maintain the exclusion of non-members. As the noted Freemasonry scholar Albert Pike wrote:

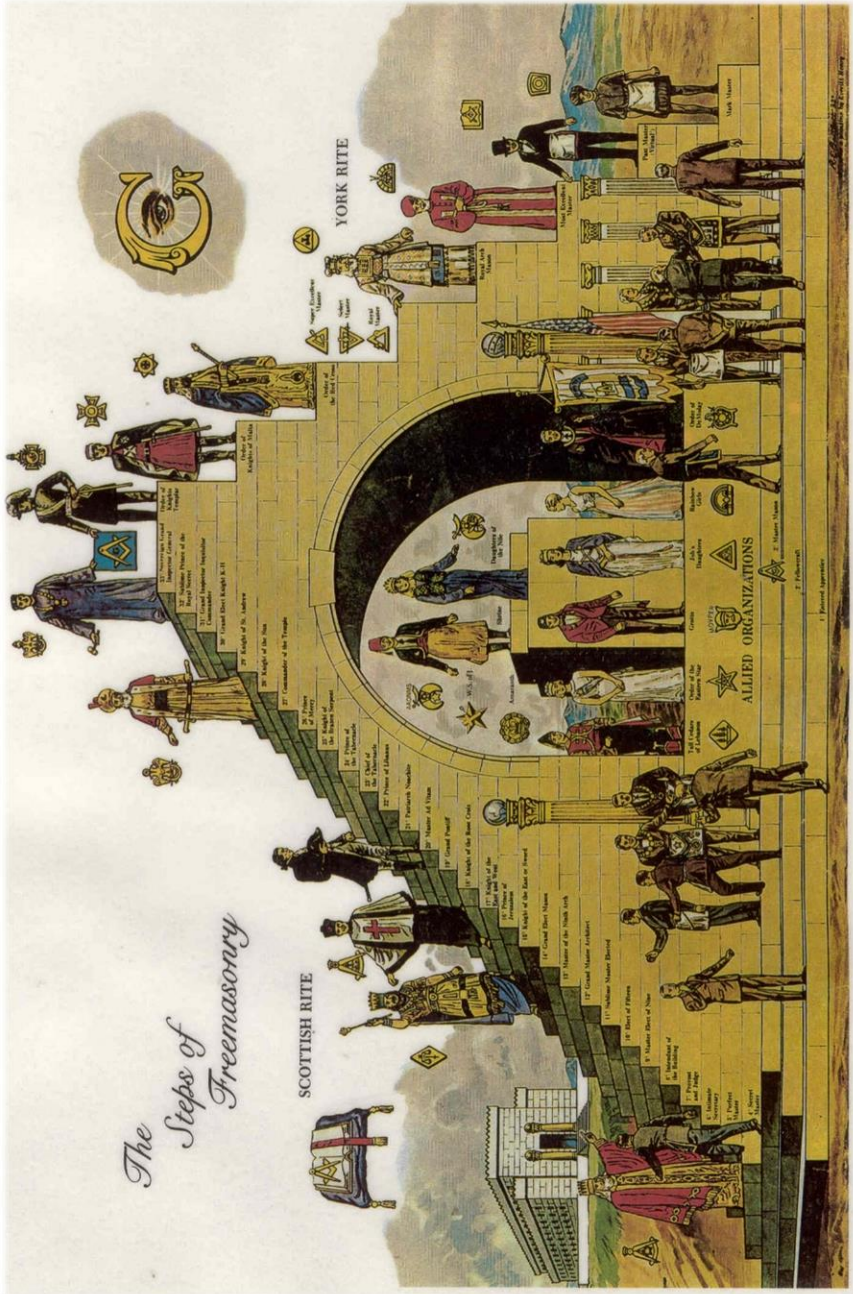
Masonry, like all the religions, all the Mysteries, Hermeticism and Alchemy, *conceals* its secrets from all except the Adepts and Sages, or the Elect, and uses false explanations and misinterpretations of its symbols to mislead those who deserve only to be misled; to conceal the Truth, which it calls Light, from them, and to draw them away from it. Truth is not for those who are unworthy or unable to receive it, or would pervert it (*Morals and Dogma of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry*, pp. 104-105).

Freemasonry is patterned after the Gnosticism which teaches that knowledge is the primary vehicle by which men can come to God. The Gnostics believed in a secret system in which understanding was kept from the common people and revealed only to the elite. Their system can be thought of as circles within circles. Those individuals in the outer circles were given a limited amount of knowledge while only those in the inner circle were privileged to know more.

Freemasons employ a similar pattern in which they offer members varying levels of knowledge. Each individual is expected to progress through numerous degrees until their understanding is complete. Because of this process, those in the Blue Lodge, who only attain the third degree, have little understanding of the true meaning of the rituals in which they participate. This keeps newer members in the dark and provides incentive to pursue higher degrees. As Pike continued:

The Blue Degrees are but the outer court or portico of the Temple. Part of the symbols are displayed there to the Initiate, but he is intentionally misled by false interpretations. It is not intended that he shall understand them, but it is intended that he shall imagine he understands them. Their true explication is reserved for the Adepts, the Princes of Masonry. The whole body of the Royal and Sacerdotal Art was hidden so carefully, centuries since, in the High Degrees, as that it is even yet impossible to solve many of the enigmas which they contain... Masonry is the veritable Sphinx, buried to the head in the sands heaped round it by the ages (ibid, p. 819).

Pike's statement makes it clear that Freemasonry is designed so that members of the lower degrees have little comprehension of their practices. Only by reading the writings of members with higher degrees, or articles by Masonic historians, can we understand that the craft actually honors ancient mystery religions. Even so, even those who become grand Masonic masters are unable to explain all the pieces of their mysterious pagan puzzle.



Unlike the Masonic way, God's way of life was not kept secret. The Bible proclaims that Christians are to let the light of His truth shine—not hide it from view (Luke 11:33). If Freemasons truly believe that their degrees of knowledge can help individuals reach a higher form of morality then they should let the rest of the world know—not keep it a secret. Secrecy has always been associated with shameful acts of wickedness—not a display good works. Notice God's example:

If your brother, the son of your mother, your son or your daughter, the wife of your bosom, or your friend who is as your own soul, secretly entices you, saying, 'Let us go and serve other gods,' which you have not known, neither you nor your fathers, of the gods of the people which *are* all around you, near to you or far off from you, from *one* end of the earth to the *other* end of the earth, you shall not consent to him or listen to him, nor shall your eye pity him, nor shall you spare him or conceal him (Deuteronomy 13:6-8).

Time and time again Freemasonry opposes the principles of God. The fraternity holds secret rituals that relate to ancient mystery religions. The true way of wisdom and righteousness is not, and has never been, a secret. As the prophet Isaiah recorded God to say:

I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth... I, the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right (Isaiah 45:19).

Some might argue that Christ used secrecy by occasionally speaking in parables and revealing the meaning only to His disciples. This is not true. Christ made the information available to all, but He did not personally teach every individual. This was because God only works intimately with those who desire to obey Him. Consider Christ's response to this question:

And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?” He answered and said to them, “Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand (Matthew 13:10-13).

God is not trying to convert everyone at this time (John 6:44). Nevertheless, the truth is available to everyone and Christ never spoke in secrecy. As the Savior said:

I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing (John 18:20).

The only reason people speak or do things in secret is to hide intentions that are not honorable. Freemasonry hides the meaning of its symbols and rituals from its members so they will not realize they are actually honoring ancient mystery religions. God’s Word makes it clear that Christians must avoid such practices.

However, Albert Mackey said that there is a direct connection between Freemasonry and the rites and beliefs of pagans. He noted this while defining paganism in the Freemason’s encyclopedia:

Paganism. A general appellation for the religious worship of the whole human race, except of that portion which has embraced Christianity, Judaism, or Mohammedanism. Its interest to the Masonic student arises from the fact that its principal development was the ancient mythology, in whose traditions and mysteries are to be found many interesting analogies with the Masonic system (*Mackey’s Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, vol. 2, p. 748).

Ancient mythology is perpetrated by Freemasonry. Mackey explained that the teachings and symbols of these ancient mysteries were adopted by the Masonic system:

There are none of the Ancient Mysteries which afford a more interesting subject of investigation to the Masonic scholar than those of the Persian god *Mithras*. Instituted, as it is supposed, by Zeradusht or Zoroaster, as an initiation into the principles of the religion which he had founded among the ancient Persians, they in time extended into Europe, and lasted so long that traces of them have been found in the fourth century. "With their penances," says C.W. King (*Gnostics and Their Remains*, page 47), "and tests of the courage of the candidate for admission, they have been maintained by a constant tradition through the secret societies of the Middle Ages and the Rosicrucians down to the modern faint reflex of the latter—the Freemasons" (*Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, vol. 2, p. 671).

The timeworn documents regarding the origin of Freemasonry can be traced back even farther than the Persian god Mithra. Masonry may well have its origin in Nimrod's building of the tower of Babel.

Consider the most famous legend of the Masonic order. Their chief hero is a man known as Hiram Abiff. Freemasons also call him the "widow's son," and they quote 1Kings 7:13-14 in an attempt to connect their Hiram with the skilled craftsman who worked for King Solomon. His name and situation have seeming similarities which are twisted by the Masons until they actually appear to fit.

Still, many irreconcilable absurdities exist. A careful study of the Scriptures reveals that Freemasonry's Hiram Abiff has nothing to do with the Hiram mentioned in the Bible. Neither is the temple spoken of in their legend the temple of God built by Solomon. God's temple was finished, but the one in the Masonic legend remains incomplete. However, this small

piece of information in their mythical tale may not be as fictional as first thought.

When we examine history, is there an example of a significant building project in antiquity famous for not being completed? Yes, there is. The account is recorded for us in the book of Genesis and that project is known as the Tower of Babel! It was built by Nimrod and his subjects out of pride for the purpose of making a name for themselves (Gen. 11:4).

According to two Masonic manuscripts dated 1600 and 1490 (*York Manuscript* and *Cooke Manuscript*), the notorious Tower of Babel is this very building project mentioned in the Masonic legend of Hiram Abiff. In addition, these records identify the Freemason's hero as the infamous Nimrod! Notice the Freemason historian's conclusion while quoting these historic documents that were written in Old English terms:

The Legend of the Craft in the *Old Constitutions* refers to *Nimrod* as one of the founders of Freemasonry. Thus in the *York Manuscript, No. 1*, we read: "At ye makeing of ye Toure of Babell there was Masonrie first much esteemed of, and the King of Babilon yt was called Nimrod was A Mason himselve and loved well Masons." And the *Cooke Manuscript* thus repeats the story: "And this same Nembroth began the towre of babilon and he taught to his werkemen the craft of Masonrie, and he had with him many Masons more than forty thousand. And he loved and cherished them well" (*Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, vol. 2, p. 709).

In another example, the craft explains that their primary hero also relates to a lore found in the ancient mysteries. Speaking of rising from the dead, Mackey wrote:

The doctrine of a resurrection to a future and eternal life constitutes an indispensable portion of the religious faith of Freemasonry. It is not authoritatively inculcated as a point of dogmatic creed, but is impressively taught by the symbolism

of the Third Degree. This dogma has existed among almost all nations from a very early period. The Egyptians, in their mysteries, taught a final resurrection of the soul...

The Brahmans and Buddhists of the East, the Etruscans of the South, and the Druids and the Scandinavian Skalds of the West, nursed the faith of a resurrection to future life. The Greeks and the Romans subscribed to it; and it was one of the great objects of their mysteries to teach it. It is, as ea all know, an essential part of the Christian faith, and was exemplified, in His own resurrection, by Christ to His followers. In Freemasonry, a particular Degree, the Master's has been appropriated to teach it by an impressive symbolism...

We may deny that there has been a regular descent of Freemasonry, as a secret organization, from the mystical association of the Eleusinians, the Samothracians, or the Dionysians. No one, however, who carefully examines the mode in which the resurrection or restoration to life was taught by symbol and a ceremony in the Ancient Mysteries, and how the same dogma is now taught in the Masonic initiation, can, without absolutely rejecting the evident concatenation of circumstances which lies patent before him, refuse his assent that the latter was derived from the former. The resemblance between the Dionysiac Legend, for instance, and the Hiramic cannot have been purely accidental. The chain that connects them is easily found in the fact that the Pagan Mysteries lasted until the fourth century of the Christian era, and, as the Fathers of the Church lamented, exercised an influence over the secret societies of the Middle Ages (*Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, vol. 2, p. 851).

The origin of Masonic philosophies and symbols is a mixture of Bible verses and pagan myths—and yet the craft is predominately pagan. While Freemasons may try to blend teachings from the Bible with their ancient mysteries, they propagate the lie that all religions are different paths to the same

god. In addition, their practice truly does not equate Christianity with other religions. To them the mysteries are superior.

Further, it must be remembered that the first degrees are not informed of the craft's connection to ancient mystical religions. That pagan connection has always been vividly reflected in Masonic symbol and ritual. Consider the following words taken from the teachings of a highly regarded Freemason:

“The Sun and Moon,” says learned Bro* Delaulnaye, “represent the two grand principles of all generations, the active and passive, the male and the female. The Sun represents the actual Light. He pours upon the Moon his fecundating rays; both shed their light upon their offspring, the Blazing Star, or Horus; the three form the great Equilateral Triangle, in the center of which is the omnific letter of the Kabbalah, by which creation is said to have been effected” (*Morals and Dogma*, pp. 13-14).

Albert Pike revealed that much of the body of Masonic practice can be traced to the Kabbalah which is a heretical sect of the mysteries rejected by orthodox Jews. Regarding this esoteric philosophy, Mackey defines the Kabbalah as being:

...intimately connected with the symbolic science of Freemasonry, the Kabbalah may be defined to be a system of philosophy which embraces certain mystical interpretations of Scripture and metaphysical and spiritual beings... Buxtor (Lexicon of the Talmud) defines the Kabbalah to be a secret science, which treats in a mystical and enigmatical manner of things divine, angelical, theological, celestial, and metaphysical; the subjects being enveloped in striking symbols and secret modes of teaching. Much use is made of it in the advanced degrees, and entire Rites have been constructed on its principles. Hence it demands a place in any general work on Freemasonry (*Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, vol. 1, p. 166).

Freemasonry derives symbolism from the Kabbalah. Mackey explained that the Kabbalah originated after Christianity, and that its practitioners believe in one infinite god that cannot manifest himself directly. This being is purported to have created ten emanations, or Sephiroth, each more distant from himself than the next. Finally, the last emanation was distant enough that it could have contact with physical matter. In this false system of belief, man is on this lower level and must ascend various ladders to ultimately reach the deity. Mackey explained:

The ten Sephiroth, represented in their order of ascent from the lowest to the highest, from the Foundation to the Crown, forcibly remind us of the system of Mystical Ladders which pervade all the ancient as well as modern initiations; the Brahmanical Ladder of the Indian mysteries, the Ladder of Mithras, used in the Persian mysteries; the Scandinavian Ladder of the Gothic mysteries, and in the Masonic mysteries the Ladder of Kadosh; and lastly, the Theological Ladder of the Symbolical Degrees (*Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, vol. 1, p. 168).

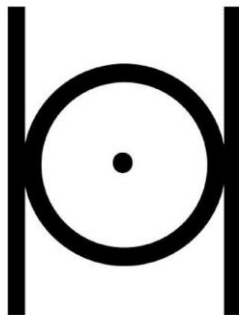
Freemasonry is a byproduct of ancient pagan worship. However, it is hidden so carefully that it seems nearly impossible to decipher without research or instruction from those of higher degree. The deeper we look, the more find to be contrary to the standards of true Christians. Notice the words of 33rd degree Mason Albert Mackey as he described the ancient pagan use of a phallic symbol and how it was adopted by Freemasonry:

The Phallus was a sculptured representation of the *membrum virile*, or male organ of generation. The worship of it is said to have originated in Egypt... To perfect the circle of generation, it is necessary to advance one step farther. Accordingly we find in the *Cteis* of the Greeks, and the *Yoni* of the Indians, a symbol of the female generative principle of coextensive prevalence with the Phallus. The *Cteis*

was circular and concave pedestal, or receptacle, on which the Phallus or column rested, and from the center from which it sprang.

The union of these two, as the generative and the producing principles of nature, in one compound figure, was the most usual mode of representation.

Here we undoubtedly find the remote origin of the *point within a circle*, an ancient symbol which was first adopted by the old sun-worshippers, and then by the ancient astronomers, as a symbol of the sun surrounded by the earth or the universe—the sun as the generator and the earth as



the producer—and afterward modified in its signification and incorporated as part of the symbolism of Freemasonry (*Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, vol. 2, p. 769).

The sun and the moon are important Masonic symbols; just as they were in the Babylonian mysteries. Believed by members of the lower degrees to represent Christ, their sun and worshipful master actually portrays the mystical worship of a false sun god. As Mackey continued to explain about the point within a circle:

This is a symbol of great interest and importance, and brings us into close connection with the early symbolism of the solar orb and the universe, which was predominant in ancient sun-worship...

Now it is admitted that the Lodge represents the world or the universe, and the Master and Wardens within it represent the sun in three positions. Thus we arrive at the true interpretation of the Masonic symbolism of the point within the circle. It is the same thing, but under a different form, as the Master and Wardens of a Lodge. The Master and Wardens are symbols of the sun, the Lodge of the

universe, or world, just as the point is the symbol of the same sun, and the surrounding circle of the universe (*Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, vol. 2, p. 788).

The pagan symbolism of this point within a circle runs deep. Notice what was written on the Freemasons Community website explaining the history of this symbol:

The Point Within a Circle symbol is not unique to Freemasonry, as it can also be found in other cultures and traditions. In ancient Egyptian culture, the Point Within a Circle symbol held significance and was displayed on monuments... The Point Within a Circle symbol was an important symbol of power and strength in ancient Egyptian culture. It represented the concept of God as the Alpha and the Omega, symbolizing the beginning and the end. Representation of the Sun and the Universe: In ancient Egyptian meaning, the point within the circle represented the sun and the circle represented the universe. This symbolism connected the symbol to the celestial and cosmic forces... The point within a circle symbol holds significance not only in Freemasonry but also in Hinduism and Buddhism. In Hinduism, the symbol represents the sun god Surya and is closely associated with the worship of the sun. It symbolizes light, energy, and power. On the other hand, in Buddhism, the point within a circle represents the universe and emphasizes the interconnection of all things. It signifies unity, harmony, and balance. This ancient symbol has deep roots in these religions and represents profound philosophical concepts that continue to resonate today (<https://freemasonscommunity.life/point-within-a-circle/>, retr. 10/30/2023).

C.R. Manasseh, London Grand Rank in lodge No. 3549, wrote that Masonic mysticism is not limited to the advanced Royal Arch degrees alone. It is also found in the lower degrees of the craft. He stated:

The First Principle informs the newly exalted Royal Arch candidate, the degree he had just taken is but a completion of the Third degree in Craft Masonry, thus inferring that the Royal Arch is an integral part of Craft Masonry and therefore, the conclusion of the latter's mystical teaching... The third degree in the blue is not the end of our Masonic teaching. In fact, this is implied when the candidate is raised from a figurative death, but is left wondering in the Limbo of Unknowing, when he is told that the genuine secrets of a master mason were lost by the untimely death of our Master H.A. To tide him over, however, the candidate is given certain "substituted secrets." A sort of Adriadne's thread to guide through the maze which mystically points out the timeless transition through life on earth and life hereafter. We find this same teaching in Greek mythology - Theseus, in Cloud of Unknowing, the Dark Night of St. John of the Cross, etc. (*The Mysticism of the Royal Arch*, <http://www.freemasons-freemasonry.com/manasseh.html>, retr. 12/17/12).

The words of their own members say that the teachings of Freemasonry are those found in the teaching of Greek mythology and other writings belonging to ancient mystery religions. In another work from the same website, 32nd degree Freemason Dennis Chornenky wrote:

The Corpus Hermeticum, often called the cornerstone of the Western esoteric tradition, is truly one of the most significant volumes of wisdom coming from the ancient world and deserves attention in its entirety. Albert Pike wrote the following: 'He who desires to attain the understanding of the Grand Word and the possession of the Great Secret, ought carefully to read the Hermetic philosophers, and will undoubtedly attain initiation, as others have done, but he must take, for the key of their allegories, the single dogma of Hermes, contained in his table of Emerald'

(Initiation, Mystery and Salvation: The Way of Rebirth, <http://www.freemasons-freemasonry.com/chornenky.html>, retr. 12/17/2012).

These contemporary writings of Masons reveal shocking information. First, the general teachings of the Blue Lodge are not the true teachings of Freemasonry. Second, unknowingly, the first three degrees are honoring the ancient mystery religions. This is fully realized if the member goes on to higher levels and sincerely continues to study the origin and meaning of the numerous symbols and rituals. Third, because of obvious pagan ties noted by Freemason historians Albert Pike and Albert Mackey, some modern Masons have demonstrated a desire to distance themselves from their writings. However, the publications of Scottish Rite reveal that these revered Masons are accepted, respected, and quoted as authorities of the craft.

The symbolism and ritual of Freemasonry find their origin in the ancient mystery religions. They are directly connected to the worship of false gods. Their customs are pagan. They are “ways of the heathen” that God tells us not to practice (Jer. 10:2). Although some Freemasons may claim that their spiritual path leads to God, this is simply not true. As one of God’s apostles wrote:

The things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons (1Corinthians 10:20-21).

Freemasonry is a Religion

Most masons would say that Freemasonry is not a religion. One website representing the fraternity states:

Although of a religious nature, Freemasonry is not a religion. It urges its members, however, to be faithful

and devoted to their own religious beliefs (<http://www.manawamasoniclodge.org/lodge-meetings/freemasonry>, retr. 8/28/2012).

Many Freemasons claim that the craft is neither a religion, nor a substitute for it. However, while making such statements to the public, in private, Freemasons admit that they are indeed a religious organization! As their noted historian wrote:

Freemasonry is a religious institution, and hence its regulations inculcate the use of prayer (*Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, vol. 2, p. 702).

Mackey later discussed the right of Freemasonry to be called a religious institution. While doing so, he also explained why so many members of the fraternity claim that the Masons are not a religious movement:

There has been a needless expenditure of ingenuity and talent, by a large number of Masonic orators and essayists, in the endeavor to prove that Freemasonry is not a religion. This has usually arisen from a well-intended but erroneous view that has been assumed of the connection between religion and Freemasonry, and from a fear that if the complete disseverance of the two was not made manifest, the opponents of Freemasonry would be enabled successfully to establish a theory which they have been fond of advancing, that the Freemasons were disposed to substitute the teachings of their Order for the truths of Christianity... On the contrary, we contend, without any sort of hesitation, that Freemasonry is, in every sense of the word, except one, and that its least philosophical, an eminently religious institution—that it is indebted solely to the religious element it contains for its origin as well as its continued existence, and that without this religious element, it would scarcely be worth of cultivation by the wise and the good... The tendency of all true

Freemasonry is toward religion. If it makes any progress, its progress is to that holy end. Look at its ancient landmarks, its sublime ceremonies, its profound symbols and allegories—all inculcating religious doctrine, commanding religious observance, and teaching religious truth, and who can deny that it is eminently a religious Institution (*Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, vol. 2, p. 846-847).

Henry Wilson Coil is the author of another encyclopedia that many lodges accept as authoritative. Coil also made it clear that Freemasonry is a religion. He wrote:

If Freemasonry is not a religion, nothing would have to be added to make it such, and that the religious service at the funeral of a Mason is evidence enough that Freemasonry is a religion. But the fact that Freemasonry is religion would not necessarily condemn it, except that the views of the Masonic religion are in open conflict with Biblical Christianity, so much so that, in our opinion, a knowledgeable and committed Mason could not possibly be a true Christian (*Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia*, p. 512).

The late Grand Commander of Freemasonry wrote in-depth material about the craft. Regarding its religious aspect, he wrote that:

Every Masonic Lodge is a temple of religion; and its teachings are instruction in religion (*Morals and Dogma*, p. 213).

By their admission, Masonry is a religion. Members meet in temples, utter prayers, perform spiritual ceremonies, require members to believe in a god of their choosing, they teach the immortality of the soul, and the perfection of humanity. But—are Freemasons Christian? NO! They state:

But the religion of Freemasonry is not sectarian. It admits men of every creed within its hospitable bosom, rejecting none and approving none for his peculiar faith. It is not Judaism... it is not Christianity (*Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, vol. 2, p 847).

If Freemasonry is a religion, and it is not Christian, then it is a false religion!

What Christians Should Do

Freemasonry is a religion, but one that does not adhere to the Bible. In their craft, Scriptures are placed alongside mystical writings such as Hermes and the Kabbalah. A hero is the ungodly and rebellious Nimrod. The God of the Bible is portrayed as being equivalent to Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Asian, African, and Persian gods. They refer to men as worshipful masters. Therefore, would Christ subscribe to this organization? Would any of His disciples become Freemasons? Of course not!

Because people have an inherent need to belong to an organization in which they can play a meaningful role, many have dedicated themselves to the Masonic order. But why would Christians join the Freemasonry when God already created an organization for them?

Christ built His Church for this very purpose; so that we may have a meaningful role in society and in our local congregations. The Church of God exists for humanity to enjoy fellowship and come together for the purpose of edification and organizing ways to help their communities. God's Church is the organization that He wants us to be a part of—not Freemasonry.

Freemasonry honors other gods and breaks the first commandment. They make symbols to represent God and break the second commandment. They require members to take God's name in vain. They cloak their belief in secrecy, and their symbols and practices stem from ancient mystery religions. The Masonic movement is an elaborate, complex, and mystical Trojan horse. It allows members to believe that it can be an extension to Christianity, but in truth it lures people into

breaking God's commandments and accepting the worship of false gods.

Without question Freemasonry is pagan! By their admission the craft is a religion and it is not Christian. Therefore, true Christians should have nothing to do with such a system. Christ and His disciples would not attend or associate with such an organization and neither should we! If we desire to walk in Christ's footsteps, we must have nothing to do with Freemasonry.

In closing, consider that the world today is filled with corrupt governments, religions, and institutions that can be traced back to the mystery religions of ancient Babylon. Freemasonry stands with them as having the same origins. God is going to unleash horrific plagues on all those who participate in the abhorrent practices of this false system. He gave us a stern warning saying "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues" (Rev. 18:4).

The Eternal Church of God offers a variety of books, booklets, articles, audio, and video to help people better understand the Bible. Some of the printed material includes:

Understanding the Mark of the Beast

The Gospel of the Kingdom of God

The Truth about Halloween

The Truth about Tithing

The Truth about Smoking

The Historical Jesus

The Truth about Christmas

The Truth about Easter

The Truth about New Year's Day

The Shocking Truth about Valentine's Day

The Truth about The Cross

The Truth about Mardi Gras

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