

“Surely there’s no harm in Freemasonry, it’s simply a benevolent society.”

“Most of the accusations against them are false.”

“Besides Freemasonry and evangelical Christianity are compatible.”

These sort of statements are made whenever the question of Freemasonry and evangelical Christianity is raised.

So what is the truth? Is Freemasonry a religion? Is it impossible to be both an evangelical Christian and a Freemason?

We hope this leaflet will help you start to answer these questions

A RELIGION?

The answer to this question has changed over the years.

In 1985 the Grand Lodge issued a leaflet “Freemasonry and Religion” which clearly stated that Freemasonry was not a religion. Each Mason could believe in and worship his own god called ‘The Great Architect’. But the following quotes show that this hasn’t always been the case.

“Masonry is not a religion, but it is Religion...” - J F Newton, ‘The Builders’, 1914.

“I boldly aver that Freemasonry is a religion.” - J S M Ward, ‘Freemasonry, Its Aims and ideals’, 1923.

“I firmly believe that it is [a religion]. The tests of any religion lie (1) in its belief in Al-

mighty God...(2) on the performance of duties to God and Man... (3) a system of faith and worship. Freemasonry conforms to all of these...” - Grand Chaplain of Grand Lodge. ‘Freemasons’ Chronicle, 1954.

Whether Freemasonry is presented as a religion by Masons depends on the social climate at the time. An absolute requirement of Evangelical Christianity is the worship of *only* the One Living God, Jehovah. This is clearly stated in the ten commandments (Exodus 20:2-5) and again by Jesus himself (Matthew 22:34-40).

A few years ago the Masons made a statement that the composite name for their god, ‘Jah-Bul-On,’ would no longer be used in their ceremonies. (**Jah** is the name of the true God Jehovah; **Bul** is the Babylonian god, Baal; **On** is the Egyptian sun god.) However, whether the name is used or not, Masonic tradition clearly shows that worship is still directed to this false god.

THOSE OATHS

Sometime during the 18th century, the blood curdling oaths were introduced which each new member had to recite, binding them to secrecy. In recent years changes have been made to the way the oaths are taken. Firstly in the early sixties the Grand Lodge changed the wording so that the candidate was under a ‘traditional penalty’. Then in 1986 the ceremony was altered so the candidate no longer says the oaths himself; instead, the Lodge Master recites them in a different part of the ceremony. Despite these changes, the outcome is the same; the new Freemason is bound to secrecy by fear.

At the time of initiation, the candidate does not know the details of the secrets he is agreeing on oath to keep. Furthermore, unless he progresses to one of the higher degrees, he will *never* know much about the beliefs, philosophy and practices of Freemasonry which he is committing himself to at his initiation.

Although the oaths refer to Masonic rites and rituals, in practice they extend beyond them and have produced a climate of secrecy which is a significant feature of Freemasonry. If Freemasonry is as good and wholesome as many Masons claim, why is there this need for secrecy? In evangelical Christianity there is no secrecy: God revealed himself in Jesus Christ to all men, women and children of all races, in all circumstances. The good news of Jesus providing the way of hope, meaning and security for now and eternity is to be shared with any who will become disciples. What a contrast to the secrecy and selectiveness within Freemasonry.

DOING GOOD?

Being an evangelical Christian is not a matter of being British, doing good and being respectable. If this all that is meant by being an evangelical Christian then it is not incompatible with being a Freemason. However, this definition of an evangelical Christian is certainly not found in the Bible. An evangelical Christian is a disciple of Jesus Christ who puts God above all else in his or her life. If there is a conflict between what the Bible teaches and some other authority, the evangelical Christian must follow the Bible. Being an evangelical Christian is being accepted by God although not de-

-serving it — not trying to earn acceptance from God by doing good.

For some families and charities it may be that the Grand Lodge of Freemasonry is the way in this life, but it can never lead to eternal life because it denies the name of Jesus Christ who said, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.” (John 14:6)

Freemasonry is serving the goods of this world instead of God-this will *never* lead to the ‘Grand Lodge Above’.

HISTORY

The English Constitution of the Freemasons seeks to link Freemasonry with the building of Solomon’s Temple. More modern writings establish a link with the stone masons who built the great cathedrals of England; but in reality the Lodges of today bear resemblance only in name. In fact most cathedrals were long finished before the Grand Lodge of England was formed in 1717.

Whatever the history, there are today some 7,500 Lodges in Britain with an active membership of over 300,000.

Is it acceptable to be both an evangelical Christian and a Freemason?

A Christian businessman, formerly a Freemason writes:

The emphasis of Freemasonry is the glorification of man by his own efforts, inside and outside the craft, supported by a worldwide Brotherhood of Masons. The emphasis of evangelical

Christianity is the glorification of God through penitence and believing faith in Jesus Christ, resulting in holy living supported by a world-wide fellowship of believers.

For further reading we recommend:

Christ, The Christian & Freemasonry - W J McCormick

Freemasonry - A Christian Perspective - John Lawrence

The Craft and the Cross - Ian Gordon

And for an in-depth look at Freemasonry

The Brotherhood - Stephen Knight

Inside The Brotherhood - Martin Short

If you need further help in being free form Freemasonry and coming to know Jesus Christ you can contact:

OR

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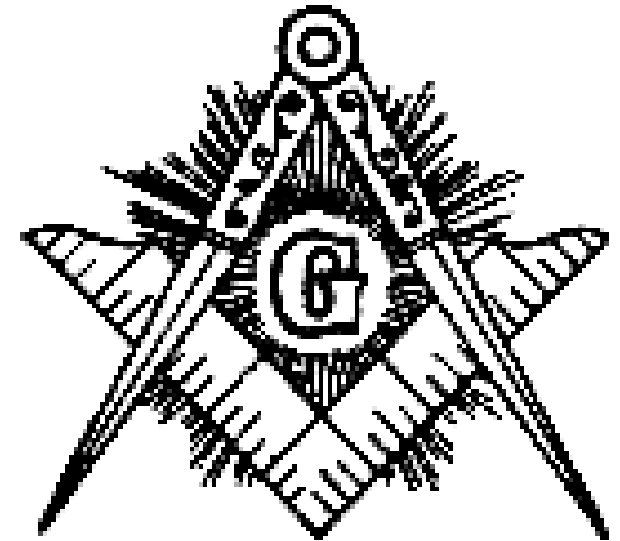
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Freemasonry



**Surely there's
no harm....**