

Just what is Freemasonry?

Freemasonry's singular purpose is to make good men better and its bonds of friendship, compassion and brotherly love have survived even the most divisive political, military and religious conflicts for more than three centuries. Freemasonry is neither a forum nor a place of worship. It is not a religion nor does it teach a religious philosophy. For over three hundred years it has attracted men of high moral character who support the tenets of temperance, fortitude, prudence and justice.

Freemasonry is the world's oldest and largest Fraternity. While our traditions look back to early history, Masonry in its current form appeared when its public events were noticed by the residents of London, England in 1717. Today there are nearly 6 million Masons worldwide.

We're often asked, "What do Freemasons believe?" The answer is quite simple: essentially the same things that teachers, government workers, bus drivers, computer technicians, accountants, utility workers, or anyone else in our community believe. There is no 'requirement' that Masons believe certain things except insofar as good behavior dictates. Each Mason professes a belief in a 'Deity', whatever form or belief that may take is his own business. Religion and politics are never topics of discussion within the Lodge.

Masonry - particularly in its earliest days - had some elements of secrecy, but the first 'exposure' of the highly-secret Masonic ritual actually appeared around 1696. Since that time, there have been many thousands of books published about this supposedly 'secret organization'. And for over three hundred years, despite the good works done by its members, Freemasonry has suffered the slings and arrows of those who seek to use its quiet nature against it. Within the Fraternity, however, we all meet as equals. In fact, one of the most fascinating aspects of Freemasonry (and an obvious source of irritation for those who thrive on the seeds of discontent) has always been: how can so many men, from so many different walks of life, meet together in peace, totally ignoring political or religious debates, to conduct business of the Lodge in harmony and friendship and to call each other "Brother!" It's truly a conundrum which perplexes those outside the circle of our fraternity.

Freemasons are taught to conform to the moral laws of society and to abide by the laws of the government under which they live. They are men of charity and good works and they engage in charitable works which have made them "the world's greatest philanthropy!" Their services to mankind represent an unparalleled example of the humanitarian commitment and concern of this unique and honorable Fraternity.

Masonry is a series of lessons, illustrated by symbols. Masonry is a gathering of Brothers, dedicated to the improvement of themselves and their community. Masonry is a lifelong pursuit, a never-ending goal. With the advent of the Internet, it has become easy to find both good and bad information about Masonry. The best place to find good information about Masonry is from the men who are members of Lodges in your community. There you can find information about who we are, what we believe, and how we support our community and our own. They can get you started on your journey.

Reasons to become a Mason

Masonry is a place where you can confidently trust every person, and entrust your family with them. It's a place where, within moral and civil guidelines; free thought, free speaking and the spiritual growth of a man can grow into its fullest potential.

Masonry is a place, which provides the opportunity to meet, outstanding individuals from all walks of life that, you would not otherwise have met. It's a place to be a part of an organization that has for its principle tenets - Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

Masonry is a place that provides self-development opportunities, leadership training and experience, and ways to improve your public speaking skills, without pressure or judgment. It's a place you can go to give support, as well as seek it.

Masonry is a place where moral virtues are taught and through these teachings a regular reinforcement of the moral virtues is experienced. It's a place to spend time with a group of Brothers, who encourage you to become a better man. Not better than others, but better than you would have otherwise been. Masonry is a place to meet with established members of the community and to become a part of the community.

How do you become a Mason?

Sorry, waiting for an invitation to join is futile. We aren't allowed to invite you to join or solicit you for membership. It must be of your own freewill...you have to want to become a Mason. If you want to be a Mason...you must ask a Mason. Find a Mason, preferably one that is close to where you live or work, get to know him, and then simply 'Ask'. Your new friend will most likely be more than happy to provide you with a petition. Fill out the petition and give it back to your friend. This starts the process of making you a "candidate." That's what we call someone who has shown interest in receiving the degrees of Freemasonry.

There are three 'degrees' in every Masonic Lodge. A degree is a lesson, a series of stories and symbols that we present to our new members. It's how we begin to introduce you to Masonry. Masonry has many layers, many levels. Some men spend their entire lives content, satisfied and fulfilled in the Blue Lodge as a Master Mason, the very heart of Masonry. Others choose to learn more by pursuing the degrees in the York Rite, or the Scottish Rite or both. Many years of friendship and learning await you if you so desire.

But...don't wait for an invitation. If you want to join our Fraternity, all you have to do is ask.

