

## Our Brethren

Freemasonry is a system of teaching or enhancing those qualities in a man that are most conducive to a regularly ordered society. To be accepted into Freemasonry we must be just, upright and free men (not slaves) of mature age, sound judgment and strict morals. We are taught the following points that are traits to be embodied in the character of a freemason:

- ☐ Brotherly Love, Relief & Truth.
- ☐ Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence & Justice
- ☐ Virtue, Honour & Mercy
- ☐ Faith, Hope & Charity

The general characteristic traits of a gentleman and freemason – note the similarities with those of our Ladies above:

1. A gentleman is generous with his time, wisdom, and resources. He willingly serves others and extends a hand to those in need.
2. A gentleman possesses a positive outlook on life. His humour and consistent encouragement attract others to him.
3. A gentleman is a lifelong learner. He maintains a teachable posture and embraces change for the better.
4. A gentleman models civility in how he treats others. He demonstrates respect, restraint, and personal responsibility in all his interactions. He is honourable, and values and respects others.
5. A gentleman is well-mannered and knows what is appropriate. He is able to navigate various social and professional settings with ease and proficiency. He embraces all people – those from other cultures, as well as individuals from various social and economic backgrounds.
6. A gentleman possesses a strong work ethic. He takes pride in his labour and strives to give his very best. He is trustworthy, loyal, and people speak well of him.
7. A gentleman is confident. His posture and body language communicate a strong personal presence.
8. A gentleman is well-dressed. He knows how to select clothing that is appropriate for any occasion and that will assist him in accomplishing his goals. He is well-groomed and practices good hygiene. He understands that his personal appearance - the way he chooses to dress, groom, and carry himself – opens doors to new opportunities.
9. A gentleman is well-spoken and a generous listener. He knows how to effectively connect with others and communicate his message.
10. A gentleman is known for his integrity. He is a man of his word and follows through with his commitments, whatever the cost. His actions reflect who he has chosen to be and are not based upon the opinions of others.

*My only other thought is that, whilst men join Freemasonry to nurture and further polish their manners and character, how do the Ladies manage to do it?.....I think I know their answer!*