

The Ideal of a Freemason.

If you see a man who quietly and modestly moves in the sphere of his life. Who, without blemish, fulfils his duty as a man, a subject, a husband and a father. Who is pious without hypocrisy, benevolent without ostentation, and aids his fellowman without self-interest.

Whose heart beats warm for friendship, whose serene mind is open for licensed pleasures, who in vicissitudes does not despair, nor in fortune will be presumptuous, and who will be resolute in the hour of danger. The man who is free from superstition and free from infidelity. Who in nature sees the finger of the Eternal Master. Who feels and adores the higher destination of man to whom faith, hope and charity are not mere words without meaning.

To whom property, nay even life, is not too dear for the protection of innocence and virtue and for the defence of truth. The man who towards himself is a severe judge but who is tolerant with the debilities of his neighbour. Who endeavours to oppose errors without arrogance and to promote intelligence without impatience, who properly understands how to estimate and employ his means.

Who honours virtue though it may be in the most humble garment and who does not favour vice though it be clad in purple and who administers justice to merit whether dwelling in palaces or cottages.

The man who, without courting applause is loved by all noble-minded men, respected by his superiors and revered by his subordinates. The man who never proclaims what he has done, can do, or will do, but where need is will lay hold, with dispassionate courage, circumspect resolution, indefatigable exertion with a rare power of mind and who will not cease until he has accomplished his work and then, without pretension, will retire into the multitude because he did the good act not for himself, but for the cause of good!

If you, my Brethren meet such a man, you will see the personification of brotherly love, relief and truth and you will have found the ideal of a Freemason.

The Principal Tenets of Freemasonry

(Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.)

To understand this subject clearly we must first get a definition of the word "*Tenet*." A "*Tenet*" is a theory of teaching so universally accepted that no one questions that it is true.

Brotherly Love

Brotherly Love is one of the closest associations that could possibly exist between two people. In the Masonic Sense we must be willing to overlook or forget petty grievances or peculiarities. We must strive to see the good things in our Brethren that will make us love them. We must cast aside our passions and prejudices and remember, "All men are my Brethren." We must remember that, "By the exercise of Brotherly Love we are taught to regard the whole human species as one family, the high and low, the rich and poor, who are taught to aid, support, and protect each other."

Relief

Relief is thought of most commonly as a form of charity, but Masonic relief has yet another meaning. A person may be distressed in many ways other than financial. He may have a business or a family problem that is discouraging to him, and a helpful suggestion may give him the relief he needs. He may be lonely because he lacks proper associations; then a cheerful word may be the relief he seeks. We claim that there are many ways of giving relief, and to relieve the distressed is a duty incumbent on all men. To sympathize with their misfortunes, to console them in their sorrows, and to restore peace to their troubled minds, these are the great aims we have in view. We as Masons must be alert to recognize these opportunities and offer our services in the way that will best bring relief.

Truth

Truth is the opposite of falsehood. When a person's word is as good as his bond, he is classified as being truthful. To be good and true is one of the first lessons we are taught in Masonry. Unless a person has a reputation for being truthful, he is not normally qualified to become a member of our order. Truthfulness is one of the fundamental requirements of good citizenship. Without truth there would be no foundation for trust and fellowship.

Freemasonry's Motto is; "Let There Be Light." In this sense truth has a much deeper meaning. In Masonry there is a never-ending search for more truth and light. There is a great storehouse of truth for every Mason to explore. It cannot be transferred from person to person in the same manner in which we communicate our ritual, and our secrets. It must be found by personal search. To each person it presents a different interpretation. With this in mind we urge you to consider carefully the teachings of the craft as you progress in your Masonic Journey.