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# THE MASONIC LODGE

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## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

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QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

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# 17 SPIRITUAL ERRORS AND DANGERS OF FREEMASONRY

When I set out to investigate the secret Masonic society, I discovered a lack of easily obtainable first-source material that addresses the inner workings of the Lodge. In fact, most material considered sensitive by Masons has been removed from public access. After much searching and diligence, I've acquired hundreds of key volumes and thousands of articles—including those written by Freemasonry's recognized authorities. Based on these sources, this pamphlet offers accurate information on American Freemasonry.

—Ed Decker

## DEITY AND WORSHIP

### FREEMASONRY TEACHES

1. Its deity, the "Great Architect of the Universe," can be worshiped by all men, whether they be Buddhists, Christians, Muslims, or Hindus, without controversy.<sup>1</sup>
2. A clue to the true identity of the Masonic Deity is given in the seventeenth degree of the Scottish Rite, or The Knights of the East and West. After the candidates have completed the initiation they are given the secret password, "Jubulum," and the Sacred Word, "Abaddon."
3. The Freemasonry ritual, in the lower degrees, is concerned with the recovery of a lost word, presumed to be the name of God. It was supposedly lost through the murder of the architect, Hiram Abiff, during the building of Solomon's Temple. This quest is completed during the ritual of the Royal Arch Degree. It is here the secret name of the deity of Masonry is revealed. That name is Jahbulon. "Jah" is the short form of the Hebrew name of God, "Yabweh," or "Jehovah." "Bul" is a rendering of the name Ba'al. "On" is the term used in the Babylonian mysteries to call upon the deity "Osiris."
4. They don't acknowledge the unique Godhood of Jesus Christ,<sup>2</sup> that He died for our sins,<sup>3</sup> or that He rose from the dead.<sup>4</sup>

### THE BIBLE TEACHES

1. Only through Jesus Christ can God be worshiped (John 14:6, 1 Timothy 2:5, 1 John 2:22,23).
2. Revelation 9:11 teaches, "They [the demons and workers from hell] had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is *Abaddon*" (emphasis added). One must ask, "How could any true Christian dare to take that evil name as a sacred word?"
3. What is presented as the god of Masonry is a three-headed monster very remote from the Christian Trinity. Anyone who would dare to pronounce its name in any ritual of worship is committing great blasphemy.
4. The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ is truly God Almighty come in the flesh who died for our sins and rose again (John 1:1-14; Colossians 1:15; 2:9; 1 Corinthians 15:4).



5. The name of God is associated with pagan fertility gods such as Ba'al.<sup>5</sup>

## OATHS AND ALLEGIANCE

6. Members must swear oaths (on a Bible, in the name of God) that involve mutilation and murder of human beings.<sup>6</sup>
7. Its members are linked in solemn, spiritual bondage to one another, irrespective of individual members' creeds.<sup>7</sup>
8. Its "valuable" truths must be bound under the most serious of secret oaths and be available only to a very few.
9. Members should address their leaders with titles like "Worshipful Master;" and kneel before them.<sup>8</sup>
10. Members must be loyal and give their time, emotions, and spiritual energy to Masonry. They must contribute financially.
11. Members are required to bow before the altars of strange gods. The higher order of the "Mystic Shrine," also requires a blood oath of submission sworn to the Islamic deity, Allah: "... and may Allah, the god of Arab, Moslem and Mohammedan, the God Of Our Fathers, support me to the entire fulfillment of the same, Amen, Amen, Amen."<sup>9</sup>

## SALVATION AND THE BIBLE

12. The Holy Bible as the Word of God is no better or worse than any other holy book.<sup>10</sup>
13. Man can be saved by his own labors without faith in Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.<sup>11</sup>
14. Members don't need to be worried about the dangers of an everlasting hell.<sup>12</sup>
15. A Christian Mason is forbidden to witness Jesus Christ to his fellow Lodge members who are unsaved.<sup>13</sup>

5. The Bible affirms the absolute holiness, separateness, and majesty of God's name (Exodus 20:2-7; Deuteronomy 6:4; Psalm 8:1; 29:2).

6. The New Testament forbids the taking of oaths (Matthew 5:34-37; James 5:12). The Bible forbids taking God's name in vain and committing murder (Exodus 20:7,13).
7. The Bible forbids Christians from being "unequally yoked" with unbelievers (2 Corinthians 6:14-17; Revelation 18:1-4).
8. The Bible does not allow for such secrecy (Matthew 10:26,27; John 18:20; Acts 26:26).
9. The Bible commands us to call no one master save Jesus (Matthew 6:24; 23:8-10) and to worship none save God (Matthew 4:10; Revelation 22:8,9).
10. Freemasonry absorbs the loyalties, time, emotional and spiritual resources, and finances of Masons away from the God-ordained tasks of the church, such as overseas missions, evangelism, and taking care of the poor to the glory of Jesus' name. (See Matthew 6:1-3; 28:19; Luke 6:38; 9:62; Ephesians 5:15,16; James.1:27.)
11. This reveals the true nature of the Masonic god of the "Mystic Shrine." The Bible prohibits the believer from bowing down to *any* other gods. It is primary among the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-5).

12. The Bible says it is truly the inspired Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16; Matthew 5:18; 1 Peter 1:25; Psalm 119:89; 12:6,7; 19:7,8).
13. The Bible teaches that a person can only be saved by grace, through faith in Christ (Romans 10:9,10; Ephesians 2:8,9).
14. The Bible is insistent and urgent in its warnings concerning the dangers of damnation (Matthew 13:49,50; 25:31-46; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).
15. Jesus commands His church to preach the gospel to everyone (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15).



## FREEMASONRY TEACHES

16. The improvement of the natural man will, in turn, bring spiritual power.
17. Freemasonry presents a perverse form of communion that claims it is the chief [Masonic] symbol of man's ultimate redemption and regeneration. "The fraternal supper" is "of bread which nourishes, and of wine which refreshes and exhilarates, symbolical of the time which is to come, when all mankind shall be one great harmonious brotherhood. . . . And thus, in the bread we eat, and in the wine we drink tonight may enter into and form part of us the identical particles of matter that once formed parts of the material bodies called Moses, Confucius, Plato, Socrates or Jesus of Nazareth. In the truest sense, we eat and drink the bodies of the dead; and cannot say that there is a single atom of our blood or body, the ownership of which some other soul might not dispute with us."<sup>14</sup>

## THE BIBLE TEACHES

16. The Bible teaches just the opposite (see 1 Corinthians 2:14; Colossians 2:8). Thus, Freemasonry perverts biblical truth by incorrectly guiding men by bad interpretation of vital spiritual terms (2 Peter 3:16).
17. The Bible clearly describes communion as a symbolic act done in remembrance of Christ's death on Calvary for our ransom. Jesus said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.' And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, 'This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.' Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you' " (Luke 22:17-20). Nowhere did Jesus mention Moses, Confucius, Plato, or Socrates.

## THE STRUCTURE OF FREEMASONRY

**F**reemasonry is separated into several groups. First, an initiate starts his pathway to "perfection" by entering into the Blue Lodge, where he goes through the first three degrees. Once this has been accomplished, he can choose to advance through either or both legs of advancement, the Scottish Rite or the York Rite. Once he has traversed either of these, he can petition for membership in the Shrine. A Mason who has gone through all the levels and who is especially committed to the movement can be raised to the honorary 33rd Degree by the craft leadership. The chart at the right explains the degrees and their placement in the order.

In addition, there are several auxiliary Masonic organizations for members, women, and youth, as shown below.

## AUXILIARY BODIES

### FOR MEN

- ◆ The Shrine

### FOR YOUTH

- ◆ De Molay
- ◆ Job's Daughters
- ◆ Rainbow Girls

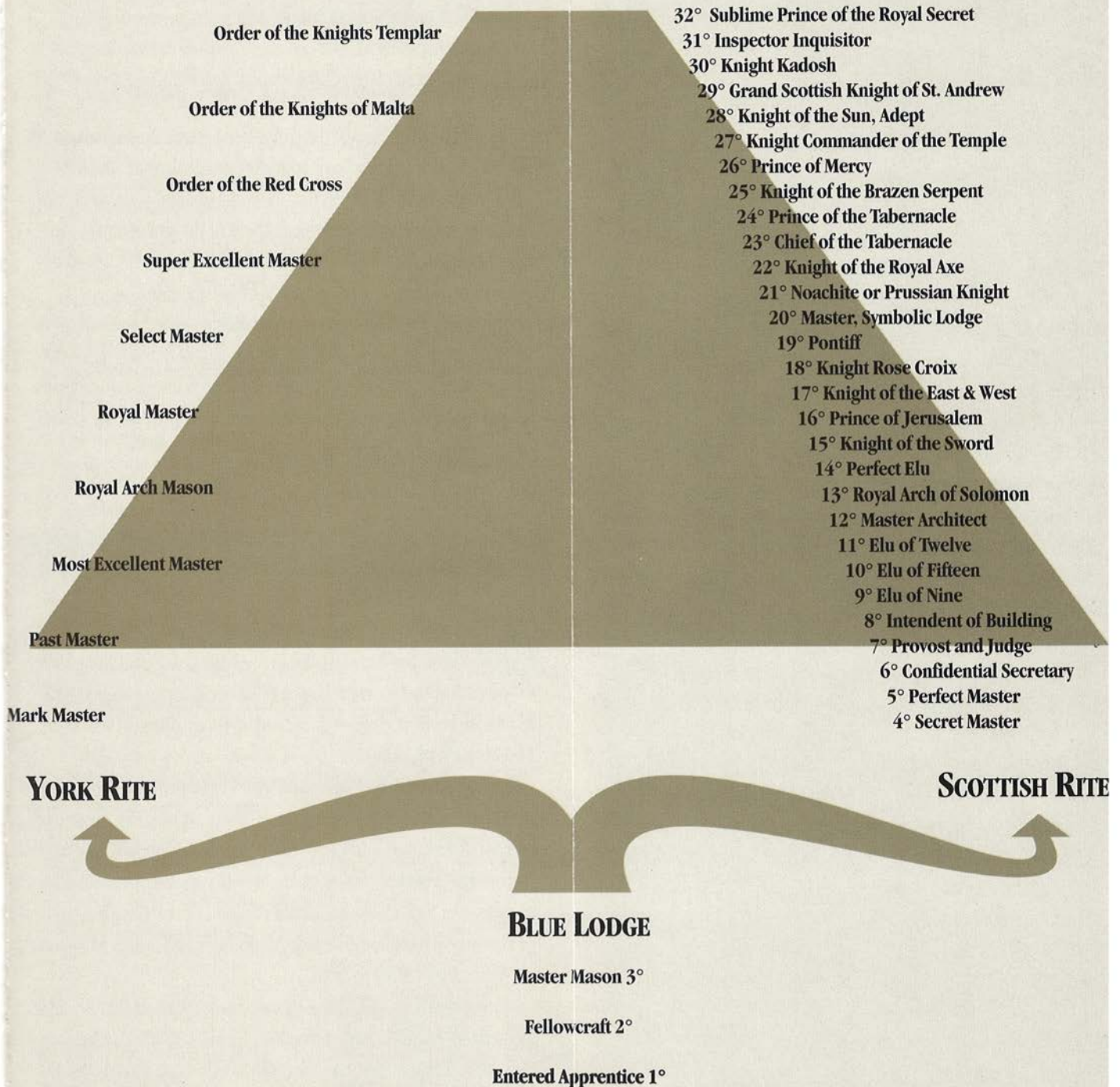
### FOR WOMEN

- ◆ Order of the Eastern Star
- ◆ Daughters of the Nile
- ◆ White Shrine



# THE STRUCTURE OF AMERICAN FREEMASONRY

33° Grand Sovereign Inspector General





## THE YORK RITE— CHRISTIAN FREEMASONRY?

**M**any people in the Christian church say that, while many other branches of Freemasonry are certainly pagan, the York Rite is a Christian rite from start to finish. Would that it were true.

First, the deep roots of Freemasonry are entwined within every branch of the craft and go through every level of paganism, cultic and occult practices, right into the depths of Luciferic rituals. No part of the system is exempt. The York Rite is no different and those men within it who claim it is free from non-Christian influence are either deceived or being deceptive.

Let's look at the "Knights Templar" Degree, believed to have originally been established to preserve and protect the craft. (See chart.) The special garb worn in this degree consists of an Apron, sash, and cordon. The center of the Apron displays a hand holding a severed head, dripping blood. On the flap is a hand holding a knife. Drops of red blood are splattered over the white background.

The sash is white with a yellow fringe. It is illustrated with gory severed heads, arms, and legs, mixed in with knives, crosses, and crowns. The cordon, which goes around the neck, is dark satin with severed heads down the side and includes a small, ceremonial sword as the breast ornament. Along with these grotesque items is a human skull cut and pinned so that the top of the skull can be detached to use as a drinking vessel.

The paraphernalia of this ritual should be evidence enough that the York Rite is every bit as pagan as the Scottish Rite, but let's look at a few excerpts from the rite itself.

The obligation in this degree, called the "Master's Nine of Elect," is now given to the candidate while kneeling at the altar. The members stand over him with raised poniards (daggers), as if about to stab him. A horrible, bloody representation of a human head sits on the altar, facing him. Thus positioned, he swears this blood oath:

I do solemnly swear, in the presence of Almighty God, that I will revenge the assassination of our worthy Master, Hiram Abiff, not only on the murderers, but also on all who may betray the secrets of this degree; and furthermore, that I will keep and protect this Order

with all my might, and the brethren, in general, with all my power, and furthermore, that I will obey the decrees of the Grand Council of Princes of Jerusalem; and, if I violate my obligation, I consent to be struck with the dreadful poniard of vengeance, now presented to me, and to have my head cut off, and stuck on the highest pole, or pinnacle, in the eastern part of the world, as a monument of my villainy! Amen! Amen! Amen! Amen!

The vows are sealed as the candidate is given the human skull filled with wine, which he drinks after swearing that "the sins of the person whose skull this once was, be heaped upon my head, in addition to my own; and may appear in judgment against me, both here and hereafter, should I violate or transgress any obligation in Masonry, or the Orders of [this] knighthood. . . ."

Any Christian who has sworn such oaths has obviously violated his faith and may very well have placed himself in a position outside of the umbrella of Christ's protection. In addition, taking these oaths renders him unable to fulfill his headship obligations (see Ephesians 5:23).

## ONE OR THE OTHER

**W**e must heed Elijah's call on Mt. Carmel: "Ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim! . . . How long halt ye between two opinions? If the LORD be God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him" (1 Kings 18:18,21).

Every "Blue Lodge" member who reads this can no longer maintain his defense of ignorance. Every Mason, through the highest degree, has had the mask of secrecy ripped away. There is no other choice for you right now. If you are a Mason who professes to be a Christian, either renounce your Christian faith or renounce Masonry. One is from on high and one is from the pit. You cannot cling to both.

I pray that you will choose Jesus and repent. If this is your desire, remember that we have this promise, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).



As humble servants of Jesus Christ and ministers of His gospel, we must take a firm stand against the cult of Freemasonry—a rival religion to Christianity which has too long been winked at, tolerated, and even praised by Christian churches! One celebrated evangelist of long ago, D.L. Moody, wrote:

I do not see how any Christian, most of all a Christian minister, can go into these secret lodges with unbelievers. They say they can have more influence for good, but I say that they can have more influence for good by staying out of them and reproving evil deeds. . . . Come out from the lodge. Better one with God than a thousand without Him! We must walk with God, and if only one or two go with us, it is all right. Do not let down the standard to suit men who love their secret lodges. . . .

Masons are clearly lost between the true and living God and the false gods of Freemasonry. They must be challenged with their sin, even as Elijah came to all the people and said, “How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him” (1 Kings 18:21).

An unsaved Mason has no reason to follow Jesus, so he needs to be approached like any lost soul—with much prayer. With Masons, however, please understand two factors:

- 1) Masons lack basic knowledge of the Bible even though it is part of the “furniture” of the Lodge and is to be their “rule and guide.”
- 2) However happy Masons may appear to be in Masonry, they are, nevertheless, in need because they lack the real Jesus. Masons substitute Masonry for a real relationship with the living God of the universe through His Son.

Most Christian Masons, on the other hand, have no idea what they are involved in. Many joined because of family obligations or business connections. Unfortunately, these men may not know a great deal about either the Lodge they serve or the Bible. They may not understand the holiness and majesty of the Lord whom they profess to follow.

Few Masons, Christians or not, take the time to read the books in the Masonic libraries. The vast majority believe the platitudes they hear from their leaders about “friendship, morality, and brotherly love” and never look deeper.

Freemasonry preys on some of man’s nobler impulses, including the desire to do good, the urge to believe in something mysterious, the need for acceptance and friendship, and the craving to be part of something greater than himself.

Since people naturally assume the best about others and the institutions with which they deal, it seldom occurs to them to look behind the excellent advertising and eager handshakes to see the engine which really powers Masonry. They see the facade and, quite naturally, mistake it for the substance of what they are joining. The Lodge takes advantage of this trusting nature and exploits it for all it is worth.

Additionally, many Masons join because someone they know or respect is a Mason. Since the “trusted friend” has accepted Masonry, it must be all right. This deceptive reasoning draws men uncritically into the Lodge. What the man doesn’t realize is that his friend probably joined on the same basis. And another link is forged for a beautiful chain of trust, which is attached to a ball about to be cast into the Lake of Fire (see Revelation 20:15).

To free the Christian Mason is a matter of restoring the man’s “first love” for Jesus. His fires may have been banked by years of involvement in Masonry. Show him the holiness of the Lord and how Jesus expects His disciples to “come out from among them, and be ye separate” (2 Corinthians 6:17). Remind him that Jesus loved him enough to die for him.

Then take him to Matthew 5:34-37, which deals with the taking of oaths. Gently ask him how he could break a commandment of the biblical Jesus by taking the Masonic oaths. He may protest that Christians take oaths in court, but you can point out that many Christians refuse any oaths because of fidelity to their Lord’s command. Beyond that, legal oaths are of a life-and-death character, mandated by the state (Romans 13:1-7); whereas Masonic oaths are, at best, frivolous in nature.

If the Mason denies his oath’s frivolity, ask him what Jesus would think of a man who takes blood oaths in direct violation of His commandments. Point out that a Christian’s body is a temple of the Holy Ghost (1 Corinthians 6:19,20; 2 Corinthians 6:16). To swear an oath by which it might be mutilated and destroyed is an affront against the Jesus who created that body and who bought and paid for it with His blood!

Blood oaths also break the seventh commandment: “Thou shalt not kill” (Exodus 20:13). But if he agrees that the Masonry



# WITH A FREEMASON

oaths are frivolous, ask him if calling on God to witness a mock oath isn't taking God's name in vain. This should crack his armor considerably and gives you a great opportunity to share the contents of this little booklet with him and pray with him. If he claims the facts in this booklet are false, show him the sources cited. When confronted, Masons will often try to claim that Albert Pike's *Morals and Dogma* or the encyclopedias and histories of Albert Mackey (both 33° Masons) are "just their opinions" or "not official." That is like claiming an act of Congress is not official!

Usually it pays to save the "big guns," such as occultism, Lucifer and Baal worship, until later in the witnessing process, since most Masons haven't heard of these and would find it hard to believe that Masonry would be involved in them.

## THE NEED FOR FELLOWSHIP

What can Masonry offer a Christian? Can Masonry's light be compared with the light of Christ? If the Holy Spirit is the Mason's teacher, what more can Masonry offer?

If your friend wants fellowship, his church probably has men's Bible studies or fellowship groups that would welcome him wholeheartedly. If he wishes to give to charity (as Masons boast they do), then encourage him to give to mission work or Christian charities so that Christ's name might be glorified. Show him that the time he spends with the Lodge is time away from Jesus. In the eternal, Masonry is a tragic waste of time—besides being a violation of the law of God.

Share these things with your friend, and above all else, pray that he might see Jesus' glory unclouded by the dark light of Masonry. Don't be surprised if your efforts at first are met with silence. Keep being his friend, witness to him about Jesus, and continue to pray for him!

## SONS OF LIGHT?

The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Indiana publishes a small book titled *Indiana Monitor and Freemason's Guide*. A monitor is given to every Mason when he is raised to the degree of Master Mason. Under "Declarations of Principles" they state:

[The Lodge] is a social organization only so far as it furnishes additional inducement that men may gather in

numbers, thereby providing more material for its primary work of education, of worship, and of charity.

The monitor of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina is entitled *The Abiman Rezon*. It reveals the attitude of the Lodge toward a Christian who seeks to become a Mason:

There he stands without our portals, on the threshold of this new Masonic life, *in darkness, helplessness, and in ignorance*. Having been wandering amid the errors and covered over with the pollutions of the outer and profane world, *he comes inquiringly to our doors, seeking the new birth*, and asking a *withdrawal of the veil which conceals divine truth from his uninitiated sight* (emphasis added).

## DO CHRISTIANS WALK IN DARKNESS?

"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: *he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness*, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12, emphasis added).

In *The Lost Keys of Freemasonry*, Manly Palmer Hall reveals Masonry's god:

"The true mason is not creed-bound. He realizes with *the divine illumination of his lodge* that as a Mason his religion must be universal: Christ, Buddha, or Mohammed, the name means very little, for he recognizes only the light and not the bearer. *He worships at every shrine, bows before every altar*, whether in temple, mosque or cathedral, realizing with his truer understanding the oneness of all spiritual truth" (emphasis added).

## COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM

"*Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?*" (2 Corinthians 6:14,15).



# SOURCES

1. Albert Pike, 33°, *Morals and Dogma of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry*, 1966, p. 226; and Albert Mackey, 33°, *Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, 1966, pp. 8-9.
2. Pike, *Morals and Dogma*, p. 525. See also Henry Clausen, 33°, *Practice and Procedure for the Scottish Rite*, 1981, pp. 75-77; R.S. Clymer, *The Mysticism of Masonry*, 1900, p. 47; and J.D. Buck, *Symbolism of Mystic Masonry*, 1925, p. 57.
3. Manly P. Hall, 33°, *The Lost Keys of Freemasonry*, 1976, pp. 90-91.
4. Pike, *Morals and Dogma*, p. 539.
5. Malcolm C. Duncan, *Duncan's Masonic Ritual and Monitor*, 1974, pp. 224-25, 250-51.
6. Duncan, *Duncan's Masonic Ritual*, pp. 35, 65, 96.
7. *Ibid.*, p. 36.
8. Duncan, *Duncan's Masonic Ritual*, p. 13.
9. *The Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine* (New York: Allen Publishing Co.), pp. 35-39.
10. Albert Mackey, 33°, *Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, p. 133; also Henry W. Coil, *Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia*, 1961; p. 520, and Oliver Day Street, *Symbolism of the Three Degrees*, 1924, pp. 44-45.
11. Simmons and Macoy, *Standard Masonic Monitor of the Degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason*, 1984, pp. 111, 125; also C.H. Lacquement, "Freemasonry and Organized Religions," *The Pennsylvania Freemason*, Feb. 1989, p. 7.
12. *Masonic Monitor of the Degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason* (Arkansas: F. & A.M., 1983), p. 15.
13. Pike, *Morals and Dogma*, p. 167; Mackey, *Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia*, 1:192; J. Blanchard, *Scottish Rite Masonry Illustrated*, 1979, 2:47.
14. Pike, *Morals and Dogma*, p. 539.

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

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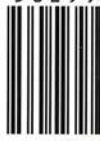
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