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01

SOME ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Before addressing the crucial question, it would be necessary for the reader's edification to first provide a brief description of how Freemasonry defines itself and if this description is consistent with historical fact.

Freemasons like to describe their fraternity as being like any other civic organization, having both a charitable and social aspect. Concerning the social aspects, they say their fraternity is designed to accommodate people interested in gaining knowledge and understanding of the world around us.

This can be achieved through socializing with people from different backgrounds, from other faiths, and from different levels of education and interests, and with people from other generations.

With regards the works of charity, Freemasonry has some of the world's most famous philanthropists. They are involved especially in the running of hospitals. For example, the Scottish Rite Hospital for children in Dallas. Also, the *Shriners*, who are Masons, run a number of children's hospitals worldwide.

However, the majority of Masons, including the various Monitors of the Grand Lodges, and statements made by many of the most prominent Masonic leaders past and present, totally deny that Freemasonry is a religion.

They claim it is a fraternal body that seeks to improve society at large and also assist the Christian Church, by helping Christians become better members of their faith.

The organization also asserts the only thing that distinguishes Freemasonry from other civic organizations, besides its antiquity, is its *degrees*. Below is how they describe them.

Stairway to the Pit

There are three degrees in regular Freemasonry. We are informed each degree represents the steps by which Masons progress from the lower ranks up to the highest degree of Freemason knowledge, developing virtue, character and knowledge along the way.

These degrees are taught to be allegorical of the training that Stonemasons, or brick layers, underwent in the past.

The Lodge distinguishes between the *operative* and the *speculative* Mason. The operative Mason is the literal Mason who builds with cement. The speculative Mason is a member of the Masonic Lodge. Masons refer to the Lodges as the Blue Lodges. Individual Lodges are governed by a Grand Lodge.

The First Degree is the *Entered Apprentice*, a novice with very little knowledge.

The Second Degree is the *Fellow Craft*. Here the Mason knows about his trade, but not enough to work on his own yet.

The Third Degree is the *Master Mason*, where you are considered completely skilled, equipped to carry out work on your own without supervision. The Master Mason is the highest rank that anyone can earn.

The standard three Masonic degrees come from the Blue Lodges of Freemasonry. Compared to the three degrees in standard Freemasonry, the Scottish Rite, an offshoot of Freemasonry, has 33 degrees.

Once one has graduated to become a Master Mason, he has satisfied the appropriate conditions to join other Masonic Organizations worldwide, such as the *Scottish Rite*, *York Rite* and the *Shrine*, to further broaden his Masonic education if he desires. However, many Masons do not join these organizations and may know little about them.

This all sounds quite innocent and even something that does indeed contribute to the welfare of society. But when one begins to study the facts of Freemasonry, its symbolism, its impact on history, and so forth, he is quickly made aware that all such activity is a cleverly devised smokescreen! Follow me as we explore the evidence.

PULLING BACK THE VEIL

As stated, that Masons deny their fraternity to be a religion is a complete deception. This can be quickly proven to any intelligent-minded inquirer who will study the very common features that clearly mark it as such.

Masonry has its own altars where candidates must take their vows and confess to believe in a deity. Such a confession is the primary requisite to being accepted into the fraternity. Strange demand for a non-religious group!

It also has its own religious symbols, emblems and revelations. Many of these are Christian, but their use in Masonry is a deliberate deception. Furthermore, the Christian symbols used in Masonic rituals are always either distorted or mutilated.

For instance, although the sacred biblical name of four letters revealed to Moses in the Book of Exodus is used in Masonic literature, it is interpreted as referring to a divine entity that combines in itself both male and female principles.

In Mackey's Masonic Ritualist, the name of Christ is omitted from various biblical passages. With reference to the omission of Jesus' Name in *1Peter 2:5*, the following explanation is given: "The passages are taken with slight but necessary modifications from the first Epistle of Peter."

The Lodge has also adopted the tools of stonemasonry into its teachings. Why? Because speculative Masons believe they too are builders; that they are building a spiritual temple in Heaven. Freemasonry teaches that each Mason, regardless of his religion, and by his own efforts, is to transform himself into a perfect

"living stone" to fit into this dwelling above. Take for example the Trowel. Freemasonry teaches:

The Trowel is an instrument used by operative Masons to spread the cement which makes the building into one common mass, but we as Free and Accepted Masons are taught to make free use of it for the more noble and glorious purpose of spreading the cement of brotherly love and affection, that cement that unites us into one sacred band or society of friends and brothers.

Freemasonry also has its own revelation, completely different to the Revelation in Scripture. You will have noticed the use of the article *a* before the word deity above. This means it does not matter to which deity or religion a Mason adheres to, as long as he affirms one. This is why the Lodge includes Christians, Muslims, Hindus, and followers of many other religions. But the Word of God says:

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

(Deuteronomy 6:4)

For us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

(1Corinthians 8:6-7)

Freemason teaching is that these other faiths are just different names for the one god, who they call the "Creative Principle," or the "Great Architect of the Universe."

All this should make it clear that Masonry is not only a religion; it is also a false religion, because it acknowledges a false god and consequently a false way of salvation.

Doing it Cain's Way

Concerning the soteriology of Freemasonry, the First Degree includes a discussion of the Lambskin Apron. This is considered the most important emblem in Freemasonry and each candidate receives an apron in the First Degree. The Monitor says this about the apron:

The lamb, in all ages has been deemed an emblem of innocence. He, therefore, who wears the lambskin as the badge of a Mason, is continually reminded of that purity of life and conduct so essentially necessary to his gaining admission into the Celestial Lodge above, where the Supreme Architect of the Universe presides.

The "Celestial Lodge" is a reference to Heaven, and as we showed the "Supreme Architect of the Universe" is one of the names Masonry has for its god. Notice the statement speaks of "gaining" admission into Heaven. By the use of this term the Lodge teaches that one earns or merits entrance into Heaven through his own efforts and merits. Moreover, as Masonry accepts any theist, the teaching on the Lambskin Apron is true for all their members, regardless of that person's god or religion. All such teaching excludes the Cross completely, and the fundamental Doctrine of Salvation by Grace through Faith.

It is also important to highlight that the Lodge teaches that *every* Mason should learn and obey ALL its teachings, including its soteriology. This requirement would not exclude "Christian Masons." The Monitor says:

Duty and honour now alike bind you to be faithful to every trust; to support the dignity of your character on all occasions and strenuously to enforce, by precept and example, a steady obedience to the tenets of Freemasonry.

What we have seen so far should be enough to demonstrate to any earnest enquirer that Christianity and Freemasonry are completely INCOMPATIBLE, but we will provide just one more important example.

BINDING OATHS AND COVENANTS

In order to be initiated into Freemasonry, a person has to make a binding and barbarous oath never to reveal any of the organization's secrets and at the completion of every degree other bloody oaths are made.

Even worse than this, each Mason binds himself by oath to all other Masons regardless of their religious persuasions. In the First, Second and Third Degree, a Mason swears oaths to fulfil certain obligations. He swears to each oath on a book considered by his Grand Lodge to be sacred. This may be the Bible, the Koran, or the Bhagavad Gita, depending on the religion of the area.

At the end of each oath, the Head of the Local Lodge, the Worshipful Master, informs the Mason that he is bound to all Masons, with a stronger tie.

Both the Old and New Testament completely prohibits believers from joining in any activity that forms a covenant or bond with unbelievers, as it seriously violates the believer's Covenant with God. Satan is well aware of this, and he therefore makes, and then exploits, covenant relationships in order to hinder God's Covenant people.

For this reason, before entering the Promised Land the Lord continually warned the Israelites against making any covenants with the heathen inhabitants of the land of Canaan. Moses wrote:

You shall make no covenant with them and their gods. They shall not live in your land, or they will make you sin against me; for if you worship their gods, it will surely be a snare for you.

(Exodus 23:32)

The Word of God here warns that entering covenants with the pagans would bind the children of Israel not only to the people but also to their gods, thus bringing themselves into bondage to those gods. As we know, Israel failed to heed the Word and the consequences were grave. Moses repeats the same warning again further on in the very same Book:

Take care not to make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land to which you are going, or it will become a snare among you. You are to tear down their altars, break their pillars, and cut down their sacred poles. For you shall worship no other God, because the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.

(Exodus 34:12-15)

The term *snare* used in this passage brings to mind an animal caught in a trap and leading eventually to its death. So forming alliances with pagan nations would lead the Israelites to destruction. The Apostle Paul repeats this warning in the New Testament:

Do not be mismatched with unbelievers. For what partnership is there between righteousness and lawlessness? Or what fellowship is there between light and darkness? What agreement does Christ have with Bèliar? Or what does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols?

For we are the temple of the living God, as God said, "I will live in them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

(2 Corinthians 6:14-17)

This warning would apply to every phase and area of the Christian's existence – religious, social, marriage and business. Paul's counsel to those already in such a situation was to abandon the relationship:

Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be your father, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.

(2 Corinthians 6:17-18)

Solomon offers similar advice to that of Moses and Paul in the Book of Proverbs:

Give your eyes no sleep and your eyelids no slumber; save yourself like a gazelle from the hunter, like a bird from the hand of the fowler.

(Proverbs 6:4-5)

To sum up, the Word of God warns a believer not to join himself to any unbeliever so as to associate himself with the unbeliever's idolatry and violate his Covenant with God. And if he already had such a relationship, then he must sever it.

04

EITHER ONE OR THE OTHER

Friends, the strong evidence we have covered so far clearly demonstrates to any open-minded person that Christianity and Freemasonry are two opposites. Therefore, the answer to our main question is a resounding NO.

No one can be member of a society which disobeys God's Word, picking and choosing which of His Commands to regard and which to reject, and at the same time be a member of a fellowship that reveres God's Word and lives by its every Precept. Put another way, you are either a Mason or a Christian, but not both!

Closing Advice and a Helpful Analogy

To the reader who may have made a pledge or vow binding you to the Freemason Organization — or any other organization making such demands for membership — there are few and simple requirements for deliverance. The Apostle Peter provided an example of what they are — Repent, Revoke and Replace.

To revoke you must make a verbal renunciation of your association and the words you spoke during the ceremonies. To replace you must speak God's Word over them.

Finally, you must destroy, all the emblems, books, jewellery, and other materials that were marks of your association. Remember the words of Jude 23, "Hating even the garment defiled by the flesh."

And to the enquiring layperson, we will close with a sound piece of advice not only relative to our analysis, but for any controversial issue related to the Bible. It is this: Instead of focusing on the various opinions on any given subject, go first to God's Word, soak yourself in it continually, learn it off by heart from the first to the last page, and prayerfully seek the Holy Spirit for understanding and revelation. By this you will be better equipped to weigh man's interpretations of it. The analogy below renders the idea perfectly:

"Mum's been working at the bank for over a year," my friend Chris told me. "And she's been getting the most *amazing* education."

"What do you mean?"

"She's learning all about money."

"I guess she'd have to know about money if she's going to work in a bank!" I laughed.

Chris smiled. "I mean she's *really* learning about money. They are teaching her to know the colour of each bill, the size of it, even the way it is water marked. They are showing her the details of the inks and papers."

"How do they teach her?"

"Well, they just keep having her handle it. They point out all the various things they want her to remember. But they figure the more she works with money, feels it, counts it, and stacks it, the more familiar it will be to her." "That makes sense, I suppose. But what's the point?"

"Here's the point. Yesterday they blindfolded her. They slipped a couple of counterfeit bills in her stack of money. She picked them out by touch!"

"So she's studying counterfeit money too, then?"
"No, that's just it. The people at the bank know that a person doesn't need to study the counterfeits."

"I see. But it seems as if they are going to a lot of trouble, doesn't it?"

"Not really. The bank knows that the counterfeits are getting better and better, more and more sophisticated. And it's been proved a thousand times over that if a Bank Teller knows the real money extremely well, he can't be fooled by the counterfeits."