

Why a Christian Shouldn't be a Mason
by Bro. Lee Cadenhead

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The Bible provides for every Christian the absolute standard for faith and conduct. It is the responsibility of every believer to take one's practices, habits, pastimes, associations, and affiliations and "judge ourselves" (1 Cor 11:31) according to the word of God. When we identify conduct that is not consistent with the scripture, it is to be shunned, so to "abstain from all appearance of evil" (1 Thess 5:22). Paul instructed us "that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils" (1 Tim 4:1). The thought of such a case is shocking when we consider that these "doctrines of devils" are heeded by those that were "in the faith," yet our responsibility to such an occurrence is clearly set forth in God's word. We're to "put the brethren in remembrance," that they might be "nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine" (1 Tim 4:6). God has not called any of us to pick and choose the battles that are popular, only to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3).

Most people know one or more Masons, but very few people could profess to know much at all about Freemasonry itself. It's not the intent of this paper to set forth a comprehensive review of this fraternal organization but simply to produce a handful of reasons, according to the scripture, Christians clearly have no business aligning themselves with the Masonic Lodge. Before these reasons are enumerated below, we should make a couple of introductory statements regarding the subject. Number one, the plan of salvation as set forth in the scripture has nothing to do with being a part of any organization, or leaving any organization for that matter. It has to do with being a part of a body (1 Cor 12:13). This takes place by a new birth (John 3:3-7), which is accomplished by the Holy Spirit when a person believes the Gospel (1 Cor 15:3-4, Gal 3:26-27). Our salvation is provided by the blood of Jesus Christ and him alone (Rom 5:9), "by grace are ye saved" (Eph 2:8), irrespective of one's fraternal affiliation.

However, that grace teaches us that “denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world” (Titus 2:11). In other words, along with the privilege of God’s grace comes the responsibility to conform our lives to that grace (Rom 12:1). Doubtless, there are many, many Freemasons who are genuinely saved. Yet, for a born-again Christian to continue in the Masonic Lodge they would either have to be deceived or dishonest. Secondly, if all of the nicest people that you knew were Masons, it would have absolutely no bearing on the facts upon which the organization is founded. You can not judge a philosophical or religious movement based on a few people you happen to know that are involved in it. There are some very nice and upstanding Masons, just like there are some very nice and upstanding Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, Mormons, Baptists, Catholics, Atheists, Republicans, Democrats, Communists, etc. You judge a system of thought based on its teachings not on its supposed adherents. With this in mind, we’ll set forth five reasons a Christian should not be a Mason with our judgments based upon the teachings of the Lodge in comparison to scripture.

1. A Christian shouldn’t be a Mason because of the ungodly oaths to secrecy.

Every man who enters the lodge must swear an oath of secrecy in his very first degree of initiation. The defense of such a policy insists that it is no different from family secrets, or business secrets, or even church business that you wouldn’t share with non-members. The trouble is that swearing an oath to this extent is clearly counter to the teaching of scripture. Jesus said, “Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths: But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God’s throne: Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King” (Matt 5:33-35). Jesus made the matter very simple. Don’t swear. The issue of swearing an oath in the first degree is especially troubling when you consider what is actually being sworn. Yes, the initiate is being

sworn to secrecy, but in reciting his oath he declares, “Binding myself under no less penalty than that of having my throat cut across, my tongue torn out by its roots, and my body buried in the rough sands of the sea...So help me God.” This oath is generally made with the initiate’s right hand upon the Bible. Jesus continued on to say in Matthew 5:36, “Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black.” To make such an oath is nothing short of blasphemous considering that a saved man’s body doesn’t belong to him since Jesus Christ bought it with his blood, so that the Holy Spirit could move in (1 Cor 6:19-20). To this, many Masons would say, ‘Well it’s not to be taken to seriously,’ to which Jesus replies, “But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.” (Matt 5:38) If there was any value in the supposed truths that Freemasonry claims to hold, they certainly should not be kept secret. The Lord Jesus Christ said, “... I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing” (John 18:20). Jesus commanded the apostles to preach the truth committed to them “upon the housetops” (Matt 10:27) and to “all nations” (Matt 28:19-20).

2. A Christian shouldn’t be a Mason because of the Pluralistic and Pagan Influences associated with it.

Most Masons are very adamant that Freemasonry isn’t a religion. However, many prominent 33° (Thirty-third degree) Masons, such as Albert Pike, Albert Mackey, and others who have written extensively about the lodge, insist that it is. Albert Mackey states that, “The truth is, that Masonry is undoubtedly a religious institution---its religion being of that universal kind in which all men agree, and which, handed down through a long succession of ages, from that ancient priesthood who first taught it, embraces the great tenets of the existence of God and the immortality of the soul---tenets which, by its peculiar symbolic language, it has preserved from its foundation, and still continues, in the same beautiful way, to teach” (Masonry Defined, p. 133). The Lodge

traces its beginnings back to scripture with the building of Solomon's temple; at the same time, many of the Masonic symbols, such as the trademark all-seeing eye or the Shriners' crescent and scimitar, come from other Pagan religions. In some lodges today, the Muslim Koran, the Jewish Tanakh, and the Christian Bible will all sit upon the Masonic altar, each representative of "the book of the Law," one of the *three* great lights (along with the square and compass) in Masonry! It's certainly not hard to see how it is a religion with its altars, prayers, deacons, chaplains, temples, mysteries, Book of the Law, and "truth." That religion is clearly not Christianity.

3. A Christian shouldn't be a Mason because it belittles the Lord Jesus Christ.

While passages of scripture (each wrested entirely from its proper context) are laced throughout the Masonic rituals, the mention of Jesus Christ is interestingly absent. There is no mention of worshipping Jesus Christ. The recorded prayers are not prayed in Jesus name, and there is certainly not any trace of a unified statement as to Christ's deity, his work upon the cross, or his resurrection. While Jesus Christ is not mentioned in the various ritual monitors (initiation handbooks), what is mentioned makes a mockery of the person of Jesus Christ. For starters, the titles commonly associated with much of the Masonic leadership are titles reserved in scripture for Jesus Christ alone. Each lodge is overseen by a Worshipful Master. Jesus Christ said, "Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ" (Matt 23:10). The thought of a man calling another sinner "Worshipful Master" should be repulsive to a Christian. We're also reminded by the Lord that no man can serve two masters (Matt 6:24). In the Royal Arch degrees they have a High Priest, in spite of the fact that Jesus Christ holds the office exclusively (Heb 4:14). In the Shrine, the leader is referred to as the Potentate, at the same time that the scripture declares Jesus Christ to be "the only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords" (1 Tim 6:15). Perhaps the strangest and most disturbing respect in which the Lodge belittles the

Saviour is in their search for "light," a major theme of Freemasonry. In Freemasonry, light is said to be a symbol of knowledge and the chief pursuit of each individual Mason. Every incoming Masonic candidate is blindfolded in the first initiation, led to a door, made to knock, and when asked who comes there, the person leading the blindfolded candidate says, "Mr. _____, who has long been in darkness, and now seeks to be brought to light, and to receive a part in the rights and benefits of the worshipful Lodge, erected to God and dedicated to the holy Saints John (John the Baptist and the Apostle John), as all brothers and fellows have done before." The reason that such a statement is so objectionable is because Jesus Christ has identified himself as the Light of the World. (John 8:12) It is the Lord Jesus Christ who has called a believer "out of darkness and into his marvelous light." (1 Pet 2:9) For a statement like this to be said of a Christian, is again, nothing short of blasphemous. By contrast, the Bible declares that the light of Christ "shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not" (John 1:5). For a Christian to claim to be in darkness, is to deny "the true Light" (John 1:9). The only way for a man to honour God, is to honour his Son (John 5:23), and the Masonic Lodge fails to do that.

4. A Christian shouldn't be a Mason because Freemasonry teaches a false gospel.

In Galatians 1:6-9 Paul makes some very strong statements regarding the perversion of the gospel and the curse upon those that propagate a false gospel. Paul was concerned that the believers at Corinth may have their minds "corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ" (2 Cor 11:3). The Bible declares that "there is none that doeth good, no not one" (Rom 3:12). The Masonic Lodge claims to take good men and make them better. There's no problem with a person trying to better themselves, but when those good works and that 'upright' lifestyle becomes the basis of a man's salvation, the result is an anti-Biblical soul-damning conception of salvation. A closing prayer found in the Alabama

Masonic Ritual says, “May we so practice Thy precepts in the rigid observance of the tenets of Freemasonry, that we may finally obtain Thy promises, and find an entrance through the gates into the Temple and City of our God.” (p. 9) The badge of a mason is a lambskin apron worn in lodge rituals. The same Masonic Ritual explains, “The lamb has in all ages been deemed an emblem of innocence; the lambskin is, therefore, to remind you of that purity of life and rectitude of conduct which is so essentially necessary to your gaining admission into the Celestial lodge above, where the Supreme Architect of the Universe presides.” (p.17) By contrast the Bible says that it is “by grace... through faith” that we are saved (Eph 2:8). It is “not by works of righteousness which we have done” (Titus 3:5). With this false Masonic gospel in place, the god of Masonry is equally accessible to a Muslim, a Jew, or a Buddhist, as he is to a Christian, but Jesus Christ declared that he is “the way, the truth, and the life, and no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). In other words, “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

5. A Christian shouldn't be a Mason because it promotes the wrong brotherhood.

When Ananias first met the newly converted Saul of Tarsus, he greeted him as “Brother Saul” (Acts 9:17). When a man gets saved he becomes a part of a family that he wasn't a part of before his new birth (John 3:7). He becomes a son of God (John 1:12). God becomes his Father (Rom 8:17). Other believers become his brothers and sisters (Gal 3:26). The Bible teaches us that a Christian, as a part of the family of God, has a special responsibility to his spiritual siblings (Gal 6:10). The Masonic Lodge represents a cheap imitation of the household of faith. There is an important distinction made within Masonry between Masons and non-Masons. A Mason has a special fraternal obligation to other Masons that he does not have to the uninitiated. This presents a problem when the Lodge is in competition with the Church for a Christian's loyalties. If a Mason insists that his ties to the

household of faith trump those of the Lodge, it will require him to break his oath when it comes to putting that into practice. The family of God is entered by accepting Jesus Christ. Yet, to enter into the Masonic Brotherhood, no such faith is required, only the common belief that there is a God. This puts Christians, Jews, and Muslims (etc.) into the same brotherhood. When you bind yourself to a lost man by an oath in the fashion that Freemasons do, it constitutes being yoked together. To this, the scripture is explicit, “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” (2 Cor 6:14-15)?

God saves the drunkard before he ever renounces his booze; God saves the idolater before he ever puts away his idols; God saves the whoremonger before he ends his unholy relationships, and God most certainly can and will save the Mason before he ever leaves the Lodge. Once God performs the miracle of salvation in an individual soul, however, he intends to sanctify his brand new creation (2 Cor 5:17). The practice of Freemasonry is inconsistent with the scripture. The church should expect the Christian Mason to put away this practice, no less than we expect any other sinner to give up drunkenness, idolatry, or fornication. For the men who entered the Lodge after being genuinely saved, God still beckons, “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate” (2 Cor 6:17). There is no greater privilege and no weightier responsibility than honoring and having fellowship with our maker and redeemer. “If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin” (1 John 1:6-7).

Some additional resources on Freemasonry.

Anyone with a genuine interest in the Masonic Lodge can find out exactly what the Lodge teaches, including their secrets, their symbols, their handshakes, and anything else you might want to know. Listed below are a handful of resources with information about the Lodge from a Biblical perspective.

Masonry, Beyond the Light by William Schnoebelen. Chick Publications. 286 pages. William Schnoebelen was a 32° Mason when he was saved. He had also been a Latter-Day Saint and a witch. This work is a very in-depth treatment of the Masonic Lodge including material on the Luciferian and Witchcraft connections to Masonry. He also has tapes and videos on the subject available at his website, www.withoneaccord.org.

Lodges Examined by the Bible by John R. Rice. Sword of the Lord Publishers. 80 pages. This noted evangelist answers the question, "Is it a sin for a Christian to have membership in secret orders?" Available at www.swordofthelord.com.

Ephesians 5:11 Ministries is a ministry to Masons by ex-Masons. Its website includes a number of free tracts and essays on the issue. You can also obtain CDs of the writings of leading Masonic leaders, such as *Morals and Dogmas* by the 33° Mason Albert Pike. www.ephesians5-11.org

Saints Alive in Jesus. This is the ministry of Ed Decker who writes extensively on the Mormons and the Masonic Lodge. Lots of informative material is available at no cost on the website, www.saintsalive.com

Contender Ministries is a Christian apologetics website with a section on Freemasonry including an enlightening table on the theology of Freemasonry. www.contenderministries.org/freemason/theology.php

The Church and the Lodge is a transcript of a compelling lecture given by Charles Blanchard, former President of Wheaton College, in 1895. Available at www.biblebelievers.com

The Cutting Edge is a website that has a large archive of articles regarding the Masonic Lodge and why it is not a Christian organization. www.cuttingedge.org/fmcorner.html

The Plain Truth about the Lodge is a simple and readable tract on Freemasonry that includes a gospel presentation. It can be obtained from the Bible Baptist Church, 125 E. Maple, Sharon, TN 38255. (Eight cent donation per tract requested)