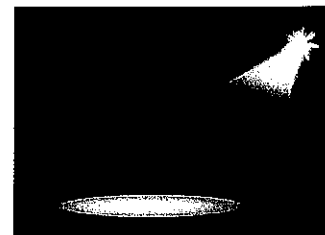


Series: Unmasking the Cults

A Spotlight on Free Masonry



It's Beginnings

Founded in 1717 in England when several members of four lodges met at London's Goose and Gridiron Tavern to form the first grand lodge. The first Masonic Lodge was established in the U.S. in 1733.

Operative Free Masonry which goes back much further than the 1700's was similar to a carpenter's union where tradesmen formed unions for credibility and protection. However, speculative free masonry can be traced back to 1717 in London and 1733 in the United States.

It's Membership

You can only become a member of Freemasonry by recommendation from a lodge member

It is restricted to males 21 years or older

Oaths & Rituals are required for earning different degrees

Every Mason enters through the Blue lodge and then has the opportunity to achieve 3 degrees (Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason) before choosing the York or Scottish Rite.

Leaders

Free masonry has never had 1 authoritative leader. Masons are led by the laws and regulations of free masonry itself. Each separate lodge elects its own officers. Yet, all lodges have the same symbols, degrees, and teachings. Key leaders in the past have included **Albert Mackey, Joseph Ford Newton, Henry Wilson Coil, Carl Claudy, H.L. Haywood, and Albert Pike**, all who have made significant contributions by their writings about Freemasonry.

Key Writings

Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia by Henry Coil

Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia by Albert Mackey

Morals and Dogma by Albert Pike

They do not have publications because they are a secret fraternity.

Names/Terms

York Rite, Scottish Rite, Masonry, Blue Lodge, Eastern Star (for women), and Shriners.

Beliefs

- The Bible is a symbol of God's Will, but not inspired or authoritative. All religious writings are a symbol of God's will, meaning the Koran is also a symbol of God's will.
- Spiritual light is only offered through freemasonry.
- Universal Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of Man
- Corrupt View of God the Father
- Corrupt View of Christ
- Ecumenical Philosophy
- A Mason is free to follow his own religious beliefs. Free Masonry brings together people of different religious beliefs to enjoy common fellowship. THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! Acts 2:42-47
- Connection to the Occult – through rituals, symbols, secrets, etc.
- Rejection of the Trinity
- Salvation by good works



- **Show him Freemasonry's view of ecumenical authority of many Bibles.**

The Bible is affirmed, and even revered by the Masons, but not as the infallible and inerrant Holy Word of God. Scripture is nothing more than a symbol of the will of God. It is no more divine or inspired than any other "holy" book of other religions.

"By the very honor which Masonry pays to the Bible, it teaches us to revere every book of faith...joining hands with the man of Islam as he takes oath on the Koran, and with the Hindu as he makes covenant with God upon the book he loves best" (Joseph Fort Newton - *The Bible in Masonry* – p. 5)

Bible Verses to Share: 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Joshua 23:6; 1 Thess. 2:13

- **Show him the confusion of ecumenism that Freemasonry promotes.**

"If Freemasonry were simply a Christian institution, the Jew and the Moslem, the Brahman and Buddhist, could not conscientiously partake of its illumination." (Albert Mackey, *Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, p.182.)

There never was a false god, nor was there ever really a false religion, unless you call a child a false man." - Max Müller

Quoted in Louisiana Masonic Monitor, 1949

Bible Verse to Share - Galatians 1:8-9; John 8:12; 1 Timothy 1:3

- **Show him Freemasonry's corrupt view of the doctrine of God.**

"Monotheism... violates Masonic principles, for it required belief in a specific kind of Supreme Deity" Henry Wilson Coil. *Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia*, p. 517

God is most often referred to as the Great Architect of the Universe. That being said, they believe that "God is equally present with the pious Hindoo...the Jew...the Mohammedan.. And the Christian in the church" (Robert I Clegg, rev. Mackey's *Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, 1:409-10.)

Bible Verse to Share – Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Mark 12:28-30

- **Show him the Freemasonry's Corrupt View of Christ.**

"It (Masonry) reverences all the great reformers. It sees in Moses, the Law giver of the Jews, in Confucius and Zoroaster, in Jesus of Nazareth, and the in the Arabian Iconoclast, Great Teachers of Morality and Eminent Reformers, if no more: and allows every brother of the Order to assign to each such higher and even Divine Characteristics as his Creed and Truth require" (Albert Pike – *Morals and Dogma of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry* p. 525)

"God never manifested himself to be seen of men. Creation is his manifestation" (J.D. Buck – *Symbolism or Mystic Masonry*, p. 276)

Bible Verse to Share – John 1:14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 2 John 1:9; Ephesians 1:20-23

- **Contrast freemasonry's belief that all religions lead to Heaven vs. Christ as the only way.**

Bible Verse to Share – Matthew 7:22-23; Acts 4:12; John 14:6; 1 Timothy 2:5

- **Contrast Freemasonry's view of coming out of darkness vs. the Bible's view of coming out of darkness.**

"The Masonic Initiate has long been in darkness, and now seeks to be brought to light" Duncan, Malcom C. *Masonic Ritual and Monitor, n.d., p. 29.*

Bible Verse to Share – John 8:12; Col. 1:13; Acts 26:18

- **Contrast Freemasonry's salvation through pure conduct with the Bible's view of salvation by grace alone.**

"The lamb has in all ages been deemed an emblem of innocence. By the lambskin, therefore, the Mason is reminded of that purity of life and conduct which is so essential to his gaining admission to the Celestial Lodge above, where the Supreme Architect of the Universe presides." (*Louisiana Masonic Monitor, pp. 44-45*)

Perform the duties of your respective stations...and you will receive from your Almighty Father an inheritance in corruptible, and undefiled, that fadeth not away – (*Tennessee Craftsmen or Masonic Textbook* – p. 126).

Bible Verse to Share - Eph. 2:8-9; Acts 4:12; Eph. 5:1

- **Explain the Gospel to him**

Man's Problem – Sin – Romans 3:10; 23; Isaiah 53:6; Isaiah 59:1-2

Man's Penalty – 2nd Death – Romans 6:23; Romans 5:12; James 1:14-15

God's Provision – His Son Jesus Christ – Romans 5:8

Man's Response – Faith & Repentance – Romans 10:9-10, 13; John 1:12

- **Show the Biblical teaching of separation from darkness and false doctrine**

Bible Verse to Share – Ephesians 5:11; 2 Cor. 6:14-18; 1 Tim. 6:3-5

- **Show him what God says about taking oaths**

Bible Verse to Share – Matthew 5:33-37; Leviticus 25:4-6; 1 John 1:9

- **Offer him a way out of Freemasonry – Sample letter <http://www.emfj.org/pdf/resignat.pdf>**

Dwight L. Moody said, "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 they can have more influence for good by staying out of them, and reproofing their evil deeds. Abraham had more influence for good in Sodom than Lot had."