

Why Freemasonry is *Incompatible* with Christianity

Summary points from *The Masonic Lodge (Freemasonry)* by Dr. Richard P. Bucher
(abbreviated by Pastor Jim Rademaker)

Most Christians in the United States (at least 90 million, including Roman Catholics, the Orthodox, the LCMS and other Lutherans, as well as Evangelical churches) belong to churches that forbid membership in Freemasonry because they regard it as incompatible with Christianity. Why is it incompatible?

God

It's a deistic religious organization that requires belief in a god that is not the triune God, a god who is accessible apart from Jesus Christ through any religion that believes in god as Creator. (universalism) Entrance to the life to come is gained by following the precepts and morality of Freemasonry.

"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father, except by me" (John 14:6; Acts 4:12).

Authority

All Masons consider their ancient ritual to be a chief authority, as well as the Grand Lodge in each region. In addition, almost all Masons consider the following three books to be authoritative interpreters of official Masonry: (1) Coils Masonic Encyclopedia by Henry Wilson Coil; (2) The Builders by Joseph Fort Newton; (3) Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry by Albert G. Mackey.

Bereans (Acts 17:11)

Vows/Oaths

Even before earning the first degree, before he has learned anything about Masonry, the candidate is required to swear that he "will conform to all the ancient established usages of the Order".

In each of the first three degree ceremonies, the candidate is asked to make an oath, to swear "in the presence of Almighty God" to never reveal the secrets of the of the Masonic Order. In each oath, the candidate calls upon himself a violent death, if he ever reveals the secrets.

Secrecy

As a candidate achieves each degree, more of the secrets are revealed to him, including the meaning of Masonic symbolism, various identifying signs and handshakes, and additional oaths.

Funerals

" ... Though perfection of character is not of this world, yet we are persuaded that our brother sought to live by these truths and principles of Masonry. ... When our brother labored with us in Masonic attire, he wore a white apron, which he was taught is an emblem of innocence and a badge of a Mason. By it, he was constantly reminded of that purity of life and rectitude of conduct so necessary to his gaining admission into the Celestial Lodge Above."

For the full article go to: www.orldutheran.com/html/masoniclodge.html