

THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

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CAN A CHRISTIAN BE A MASON?

There are many sincere people who believe that "a true Christian can be a Freemason." Is this idea of FAITH? Can it be advocated BY FAITH? It is NOT OF FAITH and thus it can not be advocated BY FAITH unless it is taught in God's Word since "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (See Romans 10:17). **Can a Christian be a Freemason BY FAITH?**

Let us consider the following facts.

1. MASONRY IS A RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION WHICH IS NOT AUTHORIZED IN GOD'S WORD. It has not been built "In the name of," i.e., by the authority of, "Jesus Christ." In Colossians 3:17 the apostle Paul said: "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." We learn from Col. 2:10 that Christians "are complete in Him (Christ)." Jesus Christ said: "I am the light of the world: he that followeth after me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." (John 8:12). NOTE: Men who reject Jesus Christ as being the "light of the world," walk in darkness. Jesus Christ said: "Every plant which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up." (See Matthew 15:13).

2. MASONRY TEACHES THAT THE BIBLE IS ONLY A SYMBOL OF GOD'S WORD. Although some Masons may teach the divine authenticity of the Holy

Scriptures, **Masonry**, as a system, does not teach the divine authenticity of the Scriptures. However, the following Scriptures unquestionably show that the Holy Scripture is the complete, inerrant, inspired Word of God. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3; 2 Peter 1:21; Jude 3; James 1:25; James 2:12; 2 John 9; John 14:26; John 16:13; John 12:48 and 1 Cor. 4:6).

3. MASONRY THRIVES ON AND DELIGHTS IN ITS SECRECY. However, the Scriptures condemn such an idea and system. Jesus said: "No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light," (Luke 11:33), and "I spake openly to the world...and in secret have I said nothing," (John 18:20). Please study carefully Deut. 27:15; John 3:19-21; Ephesians 5:11-12 and 2 Cor. 6:14-17).

4. MASONRY REQUIRES OATHS WHICH ARE FORBIDDEN BY JESUS CHRIST. Jesus said: "Swear not at all..." (See Matthew 5:34-37; also James 5:12).

5. MASONRY GIVES TITLES TO MEN SUCH AS "WORSHIPFUL MASTER" WHICH JESUS FORBIDS IN MATTHEW 23:8-10. Jesus said: "But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and

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Editorial . . .

WIVES: THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES!

(No. 2)

Wives who are concerned about doing God's will should learn that **they should not depart from their husbands**. However, if they do depart, they should remain unmarried or be reconciled to their husband. Wives who fulfill their responsibilities to their husbands **will not be contentious**.

SHOULD NOT DISCOURAGE

Job was a righteous man who lost his riches, his children and his health. (See Job 1 & 2). His wife then said unto him: "...**Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die.**" (Job 2:9). She should have encouraged him, but she did not. If he had hearkened to her suggestion, he would have turned against God.

A wife should not discourage her husband in that which is right. She has the responsibility to do right and to encourage her husband to do right.

A wife may discourage her husband in **assembling** by suggesting that it is not necessary to attend all the services of the church. She may discourage her husband in **giving** by being extravagant in her spending or by saying, "we can't afford to give that much." She may discourage her husband in **having proper association with other**

Christians by saying, "they aren't friendly," or "they don't like the things we like." She may discourage her husband in **helping others**. Because she is selfish she may say, "they don't need it as much as we do." She may discourage her husband in **taking a leading part in public worship** by saying, "you can't do that." A wife may also discourage her husband by talking too much. If she blasphemes, slanders, backbites or gossips, she will be a discouragement to him.

SHOULD NOT AGREE TO DECEIVE

In Acts 5 we learn that Sapphira privately agreed with her husband Ananias to deceive. They lied to the Holy Spirit. They agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord. They lied about how much they sold their land for and about their giving.

Today wives may privately agree with their husbands to deceive about their income, or their giving, or something else. This should never be done. Neither should wives privately agree to assassinate someone's character or to destroy someone's reputation.

SHOULD BE HELP MEET

In Gen. 2:18 we read that God said: "...**It is not good that the man should be alone: I will make an help meet for him.**" God made woman to be a help that is proper, fit or suitable for man. We learn from 1 Cor. 11:9 that the woman was created "**for the man.**" She complements him. What he lacks, she supplies. Wives should always **with, not against** their husbands.

SHOULD RENDER DUE BENEVOLENCE

Paul said: "**Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one another, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer, and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.**" (1 Cor. 7:3-5). Based on the teaching of Paul, let us now consider the following facts:

1. The wife has the responsibility to **render** unto the husband "**Due benevolence.**" To "**render due benevolence**" means to "**render that which is owed**" the husband in the marriage relationship. It means the wife should fulfill her obligation or duty to her

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husband. She definitely **owes** her husband something. She has an obligation to him.

2. In the martial relationship, the wife does not have power or authority over her own body, but the husband does. He has the right to expect sexual fulfillment from his wife. The wife has the responsibility of fulfilling the sexual desires of her husband. This can not be done unless there is cohabitation. A wife can not refuse to co-habit with her husband and have sexual relations with him and fulfil her obligations.

3. The wife has no right to "**defraud**" (i.e., to **deprive**) her husband of the opportunities to fulfill his sexual desires. She may deprive him only by mutual consent (i.e. by him agreeing to it) and then it must be **for a limited time** and **for a specific purpose**, i.e. **that each may give or devote themselves to prayer**. Then they must come together again lest one of them (or both) be tempted to commit fornication because of their lack of self-control.

If the wife fails to fulfil her conjugal duties to her husband, and he is tempted by Satan to commit fornication because of lack of self control, the wife has contributed to the sin of her husband. She will not be held blameless in such a situation. She, too, must bear the guilt of sin. One of the reasons that Paul gives for marriage is to enable one "to avoid fornication." In 1 Cor. 7:2 Paul said: "**Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every woman have her own husband.**"

A wife has no right to think only of herself and her desires in the marital relationship. She has the responsibility of considering her husband and his desires in the conjugal state.

The husband is deprived of his marital dues when his wife leaves or departs from him. If she leaves him, she violates **God's law**. She has no right to **deprive her husband of his "dues"** just because she thinks his attitude about something is wrong.

Many marriages fail because the wives do not consider the sexual desires of their husbands. Not only does the wife have the obligation to fulfill her own desires in the marriage relationship, but she has the

FLATTERING TITLES

We, like the apostle Paul of old, should "**live by the faith of the Son of God,**" who loved us and gave himself for us. (See Galatians 2:20). To "**live by the faith of the Son of God**" is to "**walk by faith, not by sight.**" (2 Cor. 5:7). The faith by which we must live "**cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**" (See Romans 10:17).

Millions of people call some man "Father," "Master," "Rabbi," "Reverend," "Righteous Reverend," "Doctor," and such like. Is this practiced BY FAITH or BY OPINION? Does God accept it? Does it further the cause of Christ or does it hinder it? Let us consider some principles taught in **God's Book**.

1. ELIHU said in **Job 32:21-22**: "**Let me not, I pray you, accept any man's person, neither let me give flattering titles unto men. For I know not to give flattering titles; in so doing my maker would soon take me away.**"

2. The PSALMIST said in **Psalms 111:9**: "**He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant forever: holy and reverend is his name.**" NOTE: the LORD is referred to in this verse.

3. JESUS said in **Matthew 23:8-11**: "**But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ: and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon earth: for one is your Father which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ. But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.**"

One can not give "flattering titles" unto men (in a religious sense) BY FAITH! It is mere **opinion** and leads to eternal ruin. We sincerely plead with men who accept "flattering titles" to humble themselves in the sight of Almighty God and repudiate such!
(CRS)

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responsibility to render unto her husband his "dues" to enable him to avoid sin. Paul said: "**...to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.**" (1 Cor. 7:2).

Unless wives fulfill their duties to their husbands, they must share the blame when problems and unhappiness arise in their homes.

(CRS)

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(To be continued)

SUTTON-SHARP DEBATE

We would like to encourage all of you readers to mark your calendars and plan to attend the debates that are scheduled to be conducted October 24, 25, 27, & 28, 1977 and April 3, 4, 6, & 7, 1978. **Carroll R. Sutton** and **Mr. Tom Sharp** are to be the disputants in these discussions.

The October debate will be in Moulton, Alabama in a building provided by the United Pentecostal Church. The time will be 7:30 each evening and the subject will be the number of persons in the Godhead.

The subject of Holy Spirit baptism will be discussed in the April debate. That discussion will be conducted in a building provided by a congregation of Jesus Christ.

Some people have expressed doubt as to Mr. Sharp keeping his agreement to have the discussions as per our agreement. However, I am of the opinion that Mr. Sharp does plan to have the debates and will do so if he is able.

Mr. Sharp is a very capable man and is experienced on the polemic platform. We are anticipating some very interesting and profitable discussions.

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and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father on the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ."

6. MASONRY OFFERS HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE IN A CELESTIAL LODGE ABOVE TO ALL FAITHFUL MASONS. However, the following Scriptures teach that **Jesus Christ is the way of salvation and the only one who has the right to offer hope of eternal life in heaven.** (John 14:6; John 6:44-45; John 3:16-17; 1 Timothy 2:3-5; Ephesians 1:3; Ephesians 4:4-6; 2 Timothy 2:10 and 1 Peter 1:1-25).

NO, A CHRISTIAN CAN NOT BE A FREEMASON BY FAITH! We urge you to accept the way of salvation as provided by God's grace through Jesus Christ!

(CRS)

THE HILL-SUTTON DEBATE

As time passes, we are still waiting for **Albert Hill** and/or the "elders" of the West Hobbs Street Church in Athens, Ala. to "honor" their agreement to have the debate. Maybe we will have some word from them by next month.

Sentence Sermons

The gospel is God's power to transform a "nobody" into a "somebody."

It is better to have clean hands and a pure heart than to have clever hands and a smooth tongue.

If you feel like you have no faults, that makes another one.

Praising yourself to the skies will not get you there.

We would all be more successful if we followed the advice we gave to others.

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