



Grand Commandery of Kansas

JANUARY NEWS

S.:K.: Roger L. Walls REGC

THE MASON AND THE CHURCH

NOTE: To start this article, my mention of CHURCH and DENOMINATION can be interchangeable in definition though the two sometimes vary from reader to persons.

There have been many discussions in reference to Masonry and the church. Not only between brother, but from the various denominations as well.

One major theme is the difference between religion and religious, these are by definition two different subjects, and the difference is especially significant in the discussion between brothers of Masonry and pastors of the different denominations.

As masons, we are not in any sense of the word a religion; yet we are distinctly religious in nature in that we hold to the one Supreme Being that all brothers are obligate to honor and serve.

If you have not read the book, “THE CLERGY AND THE CRAFT” by Reverend Brother Doctor Forest DeLoss Haggard, DD, an ordained pastor, and fellow mason, all should. Dr. Haggard devotes one chapter of his book to the subject of RELIGION and RELIGIOUS. He quotes Dr. Thomas S. Roy, DD, Past Grand Master of Massachusetts— “Our purpose as Freemasons is not that of a religion. We seek no converts, we solicit no new members, we raise no money for religious purposes. By any definition of religion, except by our critics, we cannot qualify as a religion.” Dr Roy further states, “We apply a religious test only. When Freemasons accept a Christian, or a Jew, or a Buddhist, or a Mohammadi, it does not accept him as such, but as a man—worthy to be received into the Order.” The man is received, not for his Religion, but for his faith in, and his dedication to that Supreme Being, in which he vows his trust.

AS Knights Templars, we wield our swords in defense of the Christian religion, but that does not discount a brother’s dedication to other religions. All are encouraged and directed to uphold their beliefs of their choice, as is indicated in the Scottish Rite Order. Through the Landmarks of Masonry, all religions are subject to ones following. In the October 1934, Short Talk Bulletin, the Masonic Service Association states, “Every Brother must decide for himself whether Freemasonry has, or has not, is or is not a religion.” Dr. Haggart goes on to say, “Religion is consciousness of kingship with worship for a supreme Being...”

Dr. Haggard quotes masons and pastors as to their opinions as to their belief in the difference between masonry’s religious nature and religion, and how they support their difference between the two: interesting reading.

If you ask me, I am a Christian and as such, I love everyone, regardless of their World Beliefs, just as Jesus loves me, and them the same, with a love that surpasses understanding.

SO MOTE IT BE

SO HELP ME GOD AND KEEP ME STEADFAST

Your Spiritual and Fraternal Brother in Christ,

S.:K.: Roger L. Walls

Grand Commander of Knights Templar

Of the Grand York Rite of Kansas