

Grand Commandery of New York

October News

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From The Editor

What Kind of Templar Are You?

In today's world you can Google the history of the Knights Templar and you will find out all about their lifestyles and how they lived. Ancient Templars were pious men of God—who would fight to the death to protect Christianity. Their swords were sharp and in their time the only way to sometimes survive was by using the sword. Our ancient brethren were labeled "Warriors for Christ" and when not risking their lives for Him, they lived the life of good Christian men.

In the 21st Century, we as modern day Templars have different tasks as well as upholding our Christian beliefs. Our swords are ceremonial and the edges are not razor sharp, but they signify that we are prepared to die for our Christian beliefs. Today we are still "Warriors for Christ". My question is, "how do you personally measure up as a good Templar?"

Measuring up as a good, moral man with Christian values should be paramount for you as a Templar today. What kind of reputation do you have among your peers—are you valued by people around you? Are you self-centered, egotistical or do you try to be a role model in your home, work and society in general?

Are you foul tempered and do you carry grudges and want vengeance on those who may have wronged you? Do you over indulge with food or drink? If married, are you faithful to your Lady and treat her with respect? If a father, are you kind and loving to your children and do you strive to give them Christian values and instruct them to be good citizens and to be kind and loving to others?

Are you only a good Templar when you wear your uniform and are you a member of some of the many other Masonic orders just to become the head of the group and gain another apron or medal? Do you positively support your Commandery and try to do good things to strengthen your Commandery and be an asset or do you just sit around and not participate? A true and honest Templar today should model themselves after our historic Templars by doing good things for the organization.

It is easy to sit on the side lines, but even from there you can contribute. Maybe you can be a good drill team captain or help in recruiting new members of sound character and even help instruct them as they become Templars. Hopefully, you will move up in line and become Commander—what an enlightening experience that truly is. Possibly, you would even move up to the state level and join the Grand Commandery and do good works to help maintain, preserve, strengthen and support our Order.

There's a lot to think about if you are a good Templar. Don't act like one only when you sport our uniform and sword. Glory seekers end up on the shelf as a passing thought and their memories collect

dust. Our organization needs upright men of good Christian values who practice these values in their daily lives—not just when they wear the uniform.

Remember, our history is easy to access, but measuring up as a man of good stature and reputation is something we need to practice every day of our lives.

If you're interested in knowing more about being a better man and Christian, read the book, "The Measure of a Man: Twenty Attributes of a Godly Man", by Gene A Getz (available on Amazon).

Grand Prelate's Corner

Well, Sir Knights Fall has arrived and most likely we have returned to our asylums for our knightly duties. Autumn is when God's colorful creation is displayed. This time of year brings another seasonal change for us. While some changes invite you into desired new beginnings or a fresh new experience, other changes bring overwhelm, even sadness. But as I pondered both desired and unwelcome changes in my life, they equally yielded the beauty of transformation. In one case, the transformation of stale, uninspired routines, the other transformation of character.

Like the autumn leaves surrounding us, the beauty emerges from the core of the change. In the same way, God's beauty radiates through changes God creates in our lives. Yes, the leaves are beginning to change color and eventually will fall. It all reminds me of the Ecclesiastes passage of Chapter 3:1-8. There is always a season for every purpose under heaven. Just like we have seasons to live by, Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring, we also have seasons in our lives spiritually too. No matter what we are going through, it is all temporary. No matter the season we are in, we must do everything as if we are working for the Lord Jesus Christ.

So allow God to use you in the season that you are in. Allow God to show the beautiful colors he has for you. If you are willing, God will use you in a mighty and powerful way. It might not be the way we want, but it will be the way He wants. He might not reveal the whole package, but in baby steps He will. Let God use you today. Just maybe, you may beautify another's journey of life along the way.