

What Does the Masonic Lodge Teach Its Members About Jesus?

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“Holiness to the Lord.” –Motto on the official seal of the Grand Lodge of New York

Masonry claims that it does not offend a Christian’s belief about Jesus Christ. For example: “We do not say to Christians that Christ was a mere man, whose life’s story is only a revival of similar older [pagan] stories. To do any of these things would be irreverent. We utter no such words.”¹ But Masonry does teach that Jesus Christ was merely a man. Concerning the denial of Christ’s deity we may note the observations of Masonic leader Jim Shaw. Shaw was a 33rd degree Mason, a Past Worshipful Master of the Blue Lodge, Past Master of all Scottish Rite bodies, and a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor. He acknowledges that official Masonic doctrine maintains that, “Jesus was just a man. He was one of the “exemplars,” one of the great men of the past, but not divine and certainly not the only means of redemption of lost mankind.”²

The Masonic Maundy Thursday Ritual of the chapter of Rose Croix states officially, “We meet this day to commemorate the death [of Jesus], not as inspired or divine, for this is not for us to decide.”³ One Mason told us, “Jesus and Krishna are the same!”⁴

In his spiritual darkness or ignorance, the Christian Mason may choose to believe that Jesus was God and Savior of the world, but this is not Masonic truth. Those who consider themselves enlightened Masons hope that their unenlightened Christian brethren will realize that *all* specific dogmas about Christ are in error. As Clausen emphasizes, Masons hope to “strip from all religions their orthodox tenets, legends, allegories and dogmas.”⁵ This is why the Masonic scholar Albert Pike asserts that Jesus was “a great teacher of morality”—but no more.⁶

So Masonry teaches that Jesus was only a man. Why does Masonry say that, and thereby offend the beliefs of Christians? It does this because it does not wish to offend the religious sensibilities of non-Christian Masons, those members of other faiths who deny that Jesus is the only Incarnation of God and Savior of the world. The unique nature and mission of Christ is denied by Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims and Jews. In order to not offend these people, Masonry offends Christians.

Masonry excludes all particular biblical teachings about Christ, such as His Incarnation, redemptive mission, death and resurrection. In fact, there is no biblical truth about Jesus Christ affirmed anywhere in Masonry. Mason Edmond Ronayne confesses:

Freemasonry “carefully excludes” the Lord Jesus Christ from the Lodge and chapter, repudiates his mediatorship, rejects his atonement, denies and disowns his gospel, frowns upon his religion and his church, ignores the Holy Spirit, and sets up for itself a spiritual empire, a religious theocracy, at the head of which it places the G.A.O.T.U.—the god of nature—and from which the one only living and true God is

expelled by resolution....⁷

Although there are many possible beliefs that Masons hold about Jesus, one of the more prevalent beliefs can be traced to Masonry's ties to the ancient mystery religions. Many Masons believe that the biblical teaching of Christ as God and Savior is merely a corruption of "similar," more "pure" stories in some of the earlier pagan religions.⁸ These Masons teach that the New Testament is a corrupted version of such stories and that Christianity as normally interpreted by the Church is false. In fact, many of these Masons are offended that Christianity teaches that only Jesus is God. They prefer a more mystical Christ, a Christ who recognizes that all men are divine.⁹ For example, Dr. R. Swineburne Clymer, M.D., recognized as a high Mason, teaches in *The Mysticism of Masonry* (1900, p. 47):

In deifying Jesus, the whole humanity is bereft of Christos as an eternal potency within every human soul, a latent (embryonic) Christ in every man. In thus deifying one man, they have orphaned the whole of humanity [of its divinity].¹⁰

But none of the Masonic teachings about Christ agree with what Jesus taught about Himself and with what the Church has maintained for 2,000 years. If Masonry does not even respect the teachings of Jesus, how can it claim to be a tolerant religion?

Notes:

- ¹ Henry Clausen, *Clausen's Commentaries on Morals and Dogma* (The Supreme Council, 33rd Degree, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction of the USA, 1976), p. 159.
- ² Jim Shaw and Tom McKenney, *The Deadly Deception: Freemasonry Exposed by One of Its Top Leaders* (Lafayette, LA: Huntington House, 1988), pp. 126-127.
- ³ *Ibid.*, p. 127, cf. Henry C. Clausen, *Practice and Procedure for the Scottish Rite* (Washington, DC: The Supreme Council, 33rd Degree, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Mother Jurisdiction of the World, 1981), pp. 75-77.
- ⁴ Cf., *The Kentucky Monitor*, 1946, p. xv.
- ⁵ Clausen, *Clausen's Commentaries on Morals and Dogma*, p. 157.
- ⁶ Albert Pike, *Morals and Dogma of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry* (Charleston, SC: The Supreme Council of the 33rd Degree for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States, 1906), p. 525.
- ⁷ Edmond Ronayne, *The Master's Carpet; Or Masonry and Baal-Worship—Identical* (np., nd. Distributed by Missionary Service and Supply, Rt. 2, Columbiana, OH 44408), p. 87.
- ⁸ Shaw and McKenney, *The Deadly Deception*, p. 127; Pike, *Morals and Dogma* (1906); Jack Harris, *Freemasonry: The Invisible Cult in Our Midst* (Chattanooga, TN: Global, 1983), pp. 102-103. For a refutation, see our *Ready with an Answer* [Harvest House, 1997].
- ⁹ Cf., Corinne Helene, *Mystic Masonry and the Bible* (La Canada, CA: New Age Press, 1975), pp. 19, 22, 47, 90-91.
- ¹⁰ Harris, *Freemasonry*, p. 102.