

The Southern Baptist Convention:

There are eight major concerns that the Southern Baptist Convention has expressed about the teachings and practices of Freemasonry. These are:

- (1) Freemasonry uses offensive, non-biblical, and blasphemous terms relating to God.
- (2) Freemasonry insists on the use of “bloody oaths” or obligations, which are strictly forbidden by the Bible (cf. Matt.5:34-37).
- (3) Freemasonry urges that occultic and/or pagan readings be used, and that their teachings be appropriated in interpreting such concepts as the Trinity.
- (4) Freemasonry includes the Bible as part of the “furniture of the lodge,” but only as an equal with non-Christian symbols & writings.
- (5) Freemasonry misuses the term “light” to refer to moral “reformation” as a means to salvation.
- (6) Freemasonry teaches that salvation may be attained by “good works” and not through faith in Christ alone.
- (7) Freemasonry advocates in many of its writings the non-biblical teachings of universalism.
- (8) In some of its lodges, Freemasonry discriminates against non-whites

Oaths

Matthew 5:33-37 “Again, ye have heard that it was said to them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths: but I say unto you, swear not at all; neither by the heaven, for it is the throne of God; nor by the earth, for it is the footstool of his feet; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, for thou canst not make one hair white or black. But let your speech be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: and whatsoever is more than these is of the evil one.”

James 5:12 “But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by the heaven, nor by the earth, nor by any other oath: but let your yea be yea, and your nay, nay; that ye fall not under judgment.”

Galatians 5:1 “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.” (“I bind myself...”)

Penalty for violation of Obligation/oath of Entered Apprentice, 1st Degree, Blue Lodge

“To all of which I do solemnly and sincerely promise and swear, without any hesitation, mental reservation, or secret evasion of mind in me whatsoever; binding myself under no less a penalty than that of having my throat cut across, my tongue torn out, and with my body buried in the sands of the sea at low-water mark, where the tide ebbs and flows twice in twenty-four hours, should I ever knowingly or willfully violate this, my solemn Obligation of an Entered Apprentice. So help me God and make me steadfast to keep and perform the same.”

Penalty for violation of Obligation/oath of Fellow Craft, 2nd Degree, Blue Lodge

“To all of which I do solemnly and sincerely promise and swear, without any hesitation, mental reservation, or secret evasion of mind in me whatsoever, binding myself under no less a penalty than that of having my left breast torn open, my heart and vitals taken thence, and with my body given as a prey to the vultures of the air, should I ever knowingly, or willfully, violate this, my solemn Obligation of a Fellow Craft. So help me God and make me steadfast to keep and perform the same.”

Penalty for violation of Obligation/oath of Master Mason, 3rd Degree, Blue Lodge

“To all of which I do solemnly and sincerely promise and swear, without any hesitation, mental reservation, or secret evasion of mind in me whatsoever, binding myself under no less a penalty than of having my body severed in twain, my bowels taken thence, and my body burned to ashes, and the ashes thereof scattered to the four winds of Heaven, that there might remain neither track, trace nor remembrance among man or Masons of so vile and perjured a wretch as I should be...”

Exclusivity of God, of Jesus, and of the Holy Spirit... Trinity vs. "unity"

Who could honor Osiris, Ra, etc. when the Living God judged them?

Exodus 12:12 "For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD."

Isaiah 43:10 "Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me."

Isaiah 45:21-22 "Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Savior; there is none beside me. Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else."

2 Chronicles 13:9 "Have ye not cast out the priests of the LORD, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites, and have made you priests after the manner of the nations of other lands? so that whosoever cometh to consecrate himself with a young bullock and seven rams, the same may be a priest of them that are no gods."

Jeremiah 2:11 "Hath a nation changed their gods, which are yet no gods? but my people have changed their glory for that which doth not profit."

1 Corinthians 10:16-21 "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread. Behold Israel after the flesh: are not they which eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar? What say I then? that the idol is anything, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is anything? But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils."

1 Timothy 4:1 "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils..."

Quotations relating to the nature of Freemasonry

General

John Quincy Adams. *Letters on the Masonic Institution*. P. 68. "I consider this the true and only test of the inherent and essential character of Masonry, and it was under this conviction, that I told you that the Entered Apprentice's oath was sufficient to settle, in my mind, the immoral character of the institution. It is, perhaps too much to ask of you an explicit assent to these positions, because you may consider it an acknowledgment of error. But this is the first and fundamental consideration, from which I draw the conclusion that Masonry ought forever to be abolished. It is wrong—essentially wrong—a seed of evil, which can never produce any good. It may perish in the ground—it may never rise to bear fruit; but whatever fruit it does bear must be rank poison; it can never prove a blessing by its barrenness."

Albert Pike, *Morals and Dogma*, p. 104-05. "Masonry, like all the Religions, all the Mysteries, Hermeticism and Alchemy, *conceals* its secrets from all except the Adepts and Sages, or the Elect, and uses false explanations and misinterpretations of its symbols to mislead those who deserve only to be misled; to conceal the Truth, which it calls Light, from them, and to draw them away from it."

Albert Pike, *Morals and Dogma*, p. 819. "The Blue Degrees are but the outer court or portico of the Temple. Part of the symbols are displayed there to the Initiate, but he is intentionally misled by false interpretations. It is not intended that he should understand them; but it is intended that he shall imagine that he understands them. Their true explication is reserved for the Adepts, the Princes of Masonry. The whole body of the Royal and Sacerdotal Art was hidden so carefully, centuries since, in the High Degrees, as that it is even yet impossible to solve many of the enigmas which they contain. It is well enough for the mass of those called Masons, to imagine that all is contained in the Blue Degrees; and whoso attempts to undeceive them will labor in vain, and without any true reward violate his obligations as an Adept."

"FREEMASONRY is a fraternity within a fraternity—an outer organization concealing an inner brotherhood of the elect. Before it is possible to intelligently discuss the origin of the Craft, it is necessary, therefore, to establish the existence of these two separate yet interdependent orders, the one visible and the other invisible. The visible society is a splendid camaraderie of "free and accepted" men enjoined to devote themselves to ethical, educational, fraternal, patriotic, and humanitarian concerns. The invisible society is a secret and most august fraternity whose members are dedicated to the service of a mysterious *arcanum arcanorum* [Merriam Webster: the "mystery of mysteries" specifically: the one ultimate secret supposed to lie behind all astrology, alchemy, and magic]. Those Brethren who have essayed to write the history of their Craft have not included in their disquisitions the story of that truly secret inner society which is to the body Freemasonic what the heart is to the body human. In each generation only a few are accepted into the inner sanctuary of the Work, but these are veritable Princes of the Truth and their sainted names shall be remembered in future ages together with the seers and prophets of the elder world. Though the great initiate-philosophers of Freemasonry can be counted upon one's fingers, yet their power is not to be measured by the achievements of ordinary men. They are dwellers upon the Threshold of the Innermost, Masters of that secret doctrine which forms the invisible foundation of every great theological and rational institution." Manly P. Hall

Freemasonry as an ecumenical religion

Henry Clausen, Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, USA, 1981. In *Clausen's Commentaries on Morals and Dogma*, (p.

161). "This degree portrays that the One Supreme God has been known by many names to many races of men. The Sumerians, the Egyptians, the Medes and the Persians, the Hebrew Kabbalists, the Druids and Norsemen, the Brahmans, the Moslems, the Buddhists, and the North American Indians all believed in God as the One Supreme Ruler and Creator of the Universe. This belief, held by the earliest guilds of operative masons nearly six thousand years ago, is the same belief held by modern Freemasons today."

Albert Mackey, *Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*", p. 182, 33rd Degree Mason. "If Freemasonry were simply a Christian institution, the Jew and the Moslem, the Brahman and Buddhist, could not conscientiously partake of its illumination."

Albert Pike, *Morals and Dogma*, p. 213. "Every Masonic Lodge is a temple of religion, and its teachings are instruction in religion."

Tsoukalas, *Masonic Rites and Wrongs*, p. 225. "Freemasonry is much more than a fraternal order. It is a religion—one that is diametrically opposed to Christianity. Several reasons have been offered here to demonstrate that Freemasonry is a religion. First, it possesses a dogma concerning God. The Masonic god, T.G.A.O.T.U., subsumes the various deities of the initiates. He is addressed, prayed to, and relied upon. Second the Lodge possesses a dogma about the immortality of the soul and life after death. It defines the soul, and it promises in burial and memorial services that the soul of a departed brother is in the presence of God, regardless of whether he believed in Buddha, Krishna, Jesus, Brahman, Allah, or Confucius. Third its symbolism of the Apron, Common Gavel, Plumb Line, Rough and Perfect Ashlars, Three Steps, and Canopy of a Lodge has theological—specifically salvific—overtones. Though a Mason is free to believe in Jesus Christ as the foundation of this symbolic teaching, Christ is viewed as only one of many saviors, or exemplars of the principle of good that initiates may choose. Fourth, the Scottish Rite homogenizes Christianity, Islam, Kabbalah, Hinduism, Zoroastrianism, and other religions into a religious ritualistic system that "gleans the truths" from all of these traditions, thereby restoring the "great primitive religion" originally given to all humanity. For these reasons and others, Freemasonry must be considered a religion."

Solar cult

Walton Hannah, *Darkness Visible*, p. 73. "According to the confession of a prominent teacher of Freemasonry, Hiram is 'as Osirus, as Mithra and as Bacchus, one of the personifications of the sun. Thus Freemasonry is, as granted, a mystery-religion, quite different, separate, and alien to the Christian faith."

Albert Pike, *Morals and Dogma*, p. 427-28. "In the Indian Mysteries, as the candidate made his three circuits, he paused each time he reached the South, and said, 'I copy the example of the Sun, and follow his beneficent course.' Blue Masonry has retained the Circuits, but has utterly lost the explanation; which is, that in the Mysteries the candidate invariably represented the Sun, descending Southward toward the reign of the Evil Principle, Ahiriman, Siba, or Typhon (darkness and winter); there figuratively to be slain, and after a few days to rise again from the dead, and commence to ascend Northward."

Albert G. Mackey, *A Lexicon of Freemasonry*, s.v. **Blazing Star**. "The blazing star constitutes one of the ornaments of the lodge. Formerly it was said to be 'commemorative of the star which appeared to guide the wisemen of the East to the place of our Saviour's nativity.' But as this allusion, however beautiful, interferes with the universal character of masonry, it is now generally omitted, and the blazing star is said to be an emblem of Divine Providence. Dr. Hemming, quoted by Oliver, says it refers to the sun, 'which enlightens the earth with its refulgent rays, dispensing its blessings to mankind at large, and

giving light and life to all things below.” See also, Albert G. Mackey, *A Lexicon of Freemasonry*, s.v. **Adonis**.

The NAME of God

Albert G. Mackey, *A Lexicon of Freemasonry*, s.v. **Jehovah**. P. 154-158. After 4 pages of discussion “Of the varieties of this sacred name in use among the different nations of the earth, three particularly merit the attention of Royal Arch Masons. 1. JAH.—This name of God is found in Psalm lxviii.4: ‘Extol him that rideth upon the heavens by his name JAH.’ It is the Syriac name of God, and is still retained in come of the Syriac forms of doxology, according to Gesenius. BEL, or BAAL—This word signifies a lord, master, or possessor; and hence it was applied by many of the nations of the East to denote the Lord of all things, and the Master of the world. Baal was worshipped by the Chaldeans, the Moabites, the Phoenicians, the Assyrians, and sometimes even by the Hebrews. It has been supposed that the first Baal was the Chaldean Nimrod. This word is repeatedly met with in the Scriptures, both in allusion to the idolatrous worship of this god, and in connection with other words, to denote the names of places. 3. ON.—This was the name by which Jehovah was worshipped among the Egyptians.”

The point within the Circle

Albert Pike, *Morals and Dogma*, p. 486. “The Ancient Astronomers saw all the great Symbols of Masonry in the Stars. Sirius still glitters in our Lodges as the Blazing Star, (*l’Etoile Flamboyante*). **The Sun is still symbolized by the point within a circle**; and the Moon and Mercury or Anubis, in the Great Lights of the Lodge.”

Albert Pike, *Morals and Dogma*, p. 401. “These two Divinities, the Active and Passive Principles of the Universe, were commonly symbolized by the generative parts of man and woman; to which, in remote ages, no idea of indecency was attached; the *Phallus* and the *Cteis*, emblems of generation and production, and which, as such, appeared in the Mysteries. The Indian Lingram was the union of both, as were the boat and mast **and the point within the circle**: all of which expressed the same philosophical idea as to **the Union of the two great Causes of Nature**, which concur, one actively and the other passively, in the generation of all beings: which were symbolized by what we now term Gemini, the Twins, at that remote period when the Sun was in that Sign at the Vernal Equinox, and when they were Male and Female; and of which the Phallus was perhaps taken from the generative organ of the Bull, when about twenty-five hundred years before our era he opened that equinox, and became to the Ancient World the symbol of the creative and generative Power.”

Albert G. Mackey, *A Lexicon of Freemasonry*, s.v. **Point within a Circle**. “This emblem is to be found in every well-regulated lodge, and is explained as representing the *point*, the individual brother, and the *circle*, the boundary line of his duty. But that this was not always its symbolic signification, we may collect from the true history of its connection with the phallus of the ancient mysteries. The phallus, as I have already shown under the word, was, among the Egyptians, the symbol of fecundity, expressed by the male generative principle. See also, Albert G. Mackey, *A Lexicon of Freemasonry*, s.v. **Phallus**.

Fertility cult: The Compass, Square, and the G

Albert Pike, *Morals and Dogma*, p. 402. “The Christian Fathers contented themselves with reviling and ridiculing the use of these emblems. But as they in the earlier times created no indecent ideas, and were worn alike by most innocent youths and virtuous women, it will be far wiser for us to seek to penetrate their meaning. Not only the Egyptians, says Diodorus Siculus, but every other people that consecrate this symbol (the Phallus), deem that they thereby do honor the Active Force of the universal generation of all living things.”

Albert Pike, *Morals and Dogma*, p. 850. "By the side of the male head is the Sun, and by that of the female head, the Moon, the crescent within the circle of the full moon. And the hand on the male side holds the *Compass*, and that on the female side, a *Square*."

Albert Pike, *Morals and Dogma*, p. 632. The G represents the Hebrew letter Yod, "the meaning whereof is Generation."

Albert Pike, *Morals and Dogma*, p. 763. "Yod impregnates the letter He and begets a son; and she, thus pregnant brings forth. The Principle called Father [the Male or Generative Principle] is comprehended in Yod, which itself flows downward from the energy of the Absolute Holy One."

Resurrection/Dry Baptism in the Third Degree (Master Mason)

Albert G. Mackey, Secretary General of the Supreme Council, 33^o, Southern Jurisdiction. A Lexicon of Freemasonry, 1860. P. 290. "A **resurrection from the grave** and a future immortality were the great lessons which it was the design of the ancient mysteries to inculcate. In like manner, by a symbolic ceremony of great impressiveness, the same sublime truths are made to constitute the end and object of Freemasonry in the third degree, or as it has been called by Hutchinson, 'the Master's Order.'"

Walter Leslie Wilmshurst (1867-1939) THE MEANING OF MASONRY, p. 19. "As that great authority and initiate of the Mysteries, St. Paul, taught, we can only attain to the **Master's resurrection** by "being made conformable unto His death," and we "must die with Him if we are **to be raised like Him**": and it is in virtue of that conformity, in virtue of being individually made to imitate the Grand Master in His death, that we are made worthy of certain "points of fellowship" with Him: for the "five points of fellowship" of the third degree are the five wounds of Christ The three years' ministry of the Christian Master ended with His death and, these refer to the three degrees of the Craft which also end in the mystical death of the Masonic candidate -and his subsequent **raising or resurrection**."

Walter Leslie Wilmshurst (1867-1939) THE MEANING OF MASONRY, p.62. "If in Masonry the mystical death is dramatized more realistically than the resurrection that follows upon it, that resurrection is nevertheless shown in **the "raising" of the candidate to the rank of Master Mason** and his "reunion with the companions of former toils," implying the reintegration and resumption of all his old faculties and powers in a sublimated state, **just as the limbs of the risen Osiris** were said to reunite into a new whole and as the Christian Master withdrew His mutilated body from the tomb and reassumed it, transmuted into one of supernatural substance and splendour."

The Jesus of Freemasonry

From Walter Martins, et al The Kingdom of the Occult, p. 565. "Freemasonry—lodges of several orders exist worldwide. As members of a secret lodge, Masons are oathbound not to reveal ceremonial rites on penalty of death, but numerous books written by former highly degreed Masons still remain the best source of information. Many of the Freemasonry rituals are considered occultic (secret or hidden), and they integrate Gnostic ideas, the Zodiac, and other beliefs with the Bible and Jesus Christ.... Albert Pike, Confederate officer and 33rd Degree Mason, revealed that Jesus was considered coequal with other religious leaders: "It reverences all the great reformers. It sees in Moses, the lawgiver of the Jews, in Confucius and Zoroaster, in Jesus of Nazareth, and in the Arabian Iconoclast, Great Teachers of Morality, and Eminent Reformers, if no more: and allows every brother of the order to assign to each such higher and even Divine Character as his Creed and Truth require." He also questioned whether Jesus was the only redeemer: "He will redeem and regenerate the world, and the Principle, the Power, and the existence of Evil will then cease; that this will be brought about by such means and instruments as He

chooses to employ; whether by the merits of a Redeemer that has already appeared, or a Messiah that is yet waited for, by an incarnation of Himself, or by an inspired prophet, it does not belong to us as Masons to decide."

Freemasonry and the Occult

Bowen, Patrick D. "The British Birth of the Occult Revival, 1869-1875." "The present paper offers an explanation for not only why these particular men started producing new "occult" doctrines and orders, but also for why these had the impact that they did on the ensuing florescence of the occult revival. I propose that the key to understanding the birth stage of the occult revival (i.e., 1869-1875) is George Kenning, the Masonic publisher and seller of regalia who played a crucial role in giving the Masonic occultists three key resources without which their ideas would have most likely quickly faded into obscurity: 1) respectable and prominent forums for their ideas, 2) a trusted and reliable supply of regalia and other resources necessary to realize (or to assume it was possible to realize) their occult ambitions, and 3) because of the first two factors, motivation to continue in their efforts to create and promote their doctrines and orders. Through providing these resources, Kenning played a central role in ensuring that their occult ideas were promoted, cultivated, and united—developments that were essential for this early stage of the occult revival to have the impact that it would have on the explosion of Western esotericism in the late nineteenth century."

Albert Pike, *Morals and Dogma*, p. 839. "The Occult Science of the Ancient Magi was concealed under the shadows of the Ancient Mysteries: it was imperfectly revealed or rather disfigured by the Gnostics: it is guessed at under the obscurities that cover the pretended crimes of the Templars; and it is found enveloped in enigmas that seem impenetrable, in the Rites of the Highest Masonry."

Albert Pike, *Morals and Dogma*, p. 321. "LUCIFER, the light bearer! Strange and mysterious name to give to the Spirit of Darkness! Lucifer, the Son of the Morning! It is he who bears the Light, and with its splendors intolerable blinds feeble, sensual, or selfish souls? Doubt it not! For traditions are full of Divine revelations and Inspirations: and Inspirations is not of one Age nor Creed. Plato and Philo, also, were inspired."

From De Biasi, *Esoteric Freemasonry*, Foreword, p. xv. "The roots of Freemasonry are swathed in mystery and speculation. Over the last three centuries, Masonic authors have advanced numerous conjectures into Masonry's beginnings, suggesting that the answer lies in Egypt, Rome, the Knights Templar, and Solomon's Temple. Contemporary literature overflows with Masonic intrigue, conspiracy theories, and whodunits. Current research indicates that the origins of Freemasonry are likely to be found among the medieval stonemason's guilds of Scotland and England. Nevertheless, Freemasonry has substantial historical ties with esotericism, providing the basic structure for most of the occult groups that followed it. The entire lodge framework, officers, degree system, ceremonial patterning and floor work, symbolism, secret passwords, and handshakes, signs and knocks, grade initiations, ritual drama reenactment, and sometimes even the exact wording of certain speeches in Freemasonry have all been adopted by esoteric and occult groups of the modern era."

De Biasi, *Esoteric Freemasonry*, p. 1. "It is true that esoteric Freemasonry is not all Freemasonry. Although your heart is not your whole body, it is the essential organ that keeps you alive. Esotericism is the heart and the essence of Freemasonry. Without it, life will disappear and this organization will become a body without a soul."

Walter Martin et al., *The Kingdom of the Occult* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2008), p. 410. "Arthur Edward Waite, a British scholar who translated the works of Eliphas Levi (also known as Alphonse Louis Constant), was a magician, Kabbalist, and occultist who reinvented the tarot card set for modern usage.⁵⁵ Levi's work greatly influenced Aleister Crowley, who seemed to master the tarot and wrote on it throughout his life.⁵⁶ Crowley gravitated to like-minded people seeking esoteric knowledge, and he joined a Rosicrucian, Kabbalist, occult group called the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn on November 18, 1898. He reached the order's ninth degree, Magus, on October 12, 1915, eventually founding another order he called Argenteum Astrum, or Order of the Silver Star in 1907 (after receiving *The Book of the Law*). Crowley used his official publication, *The Equinox* (1909–1913), to publish secret rituals of the Order of the Golden Dawn, a move viewed by Dawn members as revenge related to his falling-out with the Golden Dawn leadership. Not long after this, the media began publishing sordid accounts of Crowley's involvement with homosexuality and other sexual escapades linked to the Argenteum Astrum, which significantly hurt membership. Crowley soon turned his attention to another fledgling organization called Ordo Templi Orientis, which mimicked elements of Freemasonry and claimed sexual magick as one of its foundational principles. He joined it and soon became the president, freely writing about his experiences in the order. He drew many members into the organization, which still exists today. Its official motto is the Thelemic law, "Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law," which is a quote from Crowley's work.

Occult magick dominated Aleister Crowley's life, and his definition of it would significantly impact the future development of Witchcraft and Satanism. "Magick," Crowley wrote, "is the science and art of causing change to occur in conformity with the Will."⁵⁸ Sex and drugs were predominate factors in Crowley's life and magick. His drug use began early and continued throughout his adulthood. In 1922, he published *The Diary of a Drug Fiend* (1922), a shocking novel for its day, in which he drew from his personal experience. According to one biographer, "Crowley's early belief that drugs could not harm a magician possessed of pure enough will was dashed by the example of his own life. Crowley's struggles with heroin and cocaine are legendary."⁵⁹ Another of Crowley's books, *The Enochian World of Aleister Crowley: Enochian Sex Magick* (1912), illustrates his teachings on the subject of sex magick. The Ordo Templi Orientis still promotes books today dealing with sex magick and Hindu-based tantric sex, in its three international Grand Lodges and myriad small groups (including forty-four local groups in the United States) spread over twelve countries.⁶⁰

Crowley promoted a mixed bag of religious thought. He selected ideas from Buddhism, Hinduism, Gnosticism, polytheism, occult traditions, magick, Christianity, Judaism, and just about anything he found useful. In his world, there was no need for consistency. At times he sounded anti-Christian (his moniker "the Beast," for example), and at other times he invoked the name of Jesus Christ in his rituals.

Walter Leslie Wilmshurst (1867-1939) *THE MEANING OF MASONRY*, p. 10. "Masonry, by means of a series of dramatic representations, is intended to furnish those who care to discover its purport and to take advantage of the hints it throws out in allegorical form, with an example and with instructions by which our return to the "East" may be accelerated. It refers to no architecture of a mundane kind, but to the architecture of the soul's life. It is not in itself a religion; but rather a dramatized and intensified form of

religious processes **inculcated by every religious system in the world**. For there is no religion but teaches the lesson of the necessity of bodily purification of our first degree; none but emphasizes that of the second degree, that mental, moral and spiritual developments are essential and will lead to the discovery of a certain secret centre "where truth abides in fullness," and that that centre is a "point within a circle" of our own nature

from which no man or Mason can ever err, for it is the divine kingdom latent within us all, into which we have as yet failed to enter. And there is none but insists upon the supreme lesson of self-sacrifice and

mystical death to the things of this world so graphically portrayed in our third degree; none but indicates that in that hour of greatest darkness the light of the primal divine spark within us is never wholly extinguished, and that by loyalty to that light, by patience and by perseverance, time and circumstances will restore to us the "genuine secrets," the ultimate truths and realities of our own nature."

Pentagram/Pentalpha

Albert G. Mackey, *An Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, 1914. "Pentagram. From the Greek *penta*, five, and *gramma*, a letter. In the science of magic, the pentalpha is called the holy and mysterious pentagram. Eliphas Levi says (*Dog. Et Rituel de la Haute Magie*, ii, 55) that the pentagram is the star of the Magians; it is the sign of the word made flesh; and according to the direction of its rays, that is, as it points upward with one point or with two, it represents the good or the evil principle, order or disorder, the blessed lamb of Ormuzd and of St. John, or the accursed god of Mendes; initiation or profanation; Lucifer or Vesper; the morning or the evening star; Mary or Lilith; victory or death; light or darkness."

Mather and Nichols, *Masonic Lodge*. p. 33-35, and in James Holly's *The Southern Baptist Convention and Freemasonry*, Vol II., pp. 18-29. **Christian Denominations that forbid membership in the Masonic Lodge:** Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Romanian Orthodox, Lutheran Church of the Missouri Synod, Christian Reformed Church, the Reformed Presbyterian Church, The Church of God, the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, the Church of the Nazarene, Pentecostals, Free Methodist Churches, Wesleyan Methodist Churches, the Mennonite Church, Seventh-day Adventists, the Church of the Assemblies of God, The Salvation Army, the Quakers, the Church of the Brethren, the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, the Syrian Orthodox Church, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, The Church of Scotland, The Free Church of Scotland, The Baptist Union of Scotland.

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Many volumes were researched for this presentation. This list is limited to a few works that are representation of many others.

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