

WHAT IS FREEMASONRY - EXPLANATION

Ever been asked, what is Freemasonry?

Did you have a ready answer?

Freemasonry or **Masonry** or the **Craft** consists of fraternal various organizations that trace their origins back many years to the local fraternities of stonemasons, which from the end of the fourteenth century regulated the qualifications of stonemasons and their interaction with authorities and clients.

The degrees of Freemasonry retain the three grades of various medieval craft guilds, those of

1. Apprentice, the
2. Journeyman or fellow (now called Fellowcraft), and
3. Master Mason.

These are the degrees offered by Craft (sometimes known as Blue Lodge) Freemasonry.

Members of these organizations are known as Freemasons or Masons.

There are additional degrees, which vary with locality and jurisdiction, and are usually administered by different bodies than the craft degrees.

The basic, local organizational unit of Freemasonry is the **Lodge**.

Ours is such a unit. Ours is Scottish in its origins. We think it the best.

The Lodges are usually supervised and governed at the regional level (usually coterminous with a State, Province, or national border) by a Grand Lodge.

There is no one international, worldwide Grand Lodge that supervises all of Freemasonry; each Grand Lodge is independent, and they do not necessarily recognize each other as being legitimate.

When you think of it, what is legitimate anyway?

Hopefully those who preside over the Local or District Grand Lodge are men of good repute with the well being of the members of the Grand Lodge at heart. Sadly this is not always the case.

You will find such men in all walks of life. It is sad but true. *Politics* we call it and it raises its head in all walks of life.

Good, modern Freemasonry broadly consists of:-

1. *The insistence that a volume of scripture is open in a working lodge,*
2. *That every member profess belief in a Supreme Being,*
3. *That **no women** are admitted, and*
4. *That the discussion of religion and politics is **banned**.*

Continental Freemasonry is now the general term for the “liberal” jurisdictions who have removed some, or all, of these restrictions but here we do not recognize them.

This thumbnail sketch is about WHAT IS FREEMASONRY. It is not about what we do, that’s another story.

Those who support their Lodge are themsel