

CULTS, RELIGIONS, & FREEMASONRY

- *Why should we as believers learn about cults and religions?* (Eph. 4:14-15; Col. 2:8; 2 Tim. 4:2; 1 Peter 3:15)
- *What is a “religion” vs. a “cult” vs. the “occult”?* (Acts 17:22; 25:19; 26:5; Col. 2:23; James 1:26-27)
- *Where do cults and unbiblical religions ultimately come from?* (Matt. 15:9; Mark 7:7; 1 Cor. 10:19-21; 2 Cor. 11:3-4, 13-15; Col. 2:22; 1 Tim. 4:1)
- *How does the Lord want us to respond to cults and religions and those in them?* (2 Cor. 5:18-21; 6:14-17; Eph. 5:11; Col. 4:6; 1 Peter 3:15; 1 John 4:1-3)

I. FREEMASONRY

A. Definition of Freemasonry: Freemasonry is a _____ and _____ based on mysticism, elaborate rituals, and allegories, that _____ many religious views and philosophies in an attempt to improve the morality of its members and the welfare of society.

B. History & Development of Freemasonry

1. Freemasonry claims to have originated with _____, a grand master mason, who supposedly oversaw the construction of Solomon’s temple and was martyred by fellow craftsmen for not revealing the secrets of Freemasonry. In reality, Freemasonry developed among free stone masons from the 14th century onward, with the first Grand Lodge constructed in _____ in _____.
 - *Was he a real historical, biblical person?* (2 Sam. 5:11; 1 Kings 5, 9, 10; 2 Chr. 2)
2. The current number of Freemasons is estimate at _____ in America and _____ worldwide.
3. The influence of Freemasonry can be seen by the _____ of leaders in Western society of the last two centuries who have been masons, including at least _____ of US presidents.

C. Structure of Freemasonry

1. Members of Freemasonry go through secretive initiation ceremonies to advance to different levels or degrees along two branches—either the _____ (33 degrees) or _____ (at least 7 degrees) Rite.
2. The two branches of Freemasonry also have _____ organizations, such as the _____, Order of DeMolay (boys), Order of the Eastern Star (women), and Job’s Daughters (girls).
 - *What organizations are not affiliated with Freemasonry?*
 - *What charities and activities are Freemasons involved in?*

D. Practices of Freemasonry

1. Freemasonry's 3 "great lights" are the _____, _____, and _____ used on the altar during initiation rituals that are supposedly symbols of masonic "truth."
2. To become a Freemason and advance to higher degrees, people must _____ before God of _____ if they ever divulge the secrets of their ceremonies.
 - *Why is this practice unbiblical?* (1 Cor. 3:16-17; 6:19-20; Matt. 5:33-37; James 5:12; John 18:20; 2 Cor. 4:2)

E. Beliefs of Freemasonry

1. *Authority & the Bible:* The source of authoritative belief and practice in Freemasonry is not the Bible but the _____ and each individual's _____ in the quest for "truth."
 - *Why is this unbiblical?* (John 17:17; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)
2. *God & Jesus Christ:* Freemasonry claims to follow the Triune God of the Bible, but in reality it promotes a _____ syncretism. (Ex. 20:3; Isa. 45:21)
 - *What does the "Great Architect of the Universe" mean in Freemasonry?*
 - *What does the name Jah-bul-on mean according to the highest masonic authorities?* (Ex. 12:12)
 - *How does Freemasonry's view of Jesus Christ compare with the Bible's teaching?* (Phil. 2:9-10; Col. 1:16-18; John 14:6; Matt. 7:13-14)
3. *Man:* Freemasonry denies that mankind is by nature spiritually _____ and lost in sin, but instead it seeks to "make _____ men better." (Gen. 6:5; 8:21; Ps. 51:5; Eccl. 7:20; Rom. 3:10-12; 5:12)
4. *Salvation:* Freemasonry teaches salvation to the "celestial lodge above" is by _____ rather than by God's _____ alone through faith alone in Christ. (Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5)
 - *Why is Freemasonry truly a religion and not just a fraternity?*

F. Biblical Response to Freemasons

1. How should we respond to those in Freemasonry who are unsaved? (2 Cor. 4:3-4; Acts 4:12; 1 Cor. 14:33; Heb. 4:12)
2. How should we respond to those in Freemasonry who may be saved? (2 Cor. 6:14-18; Gal. 1:8-9; 4:8-9; Eph. 5:11)