

## Do We Need DeMolay and does DeMolay Need Us?

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First, maybe we need to take a look at what DeMolay is and what it can do for the youth of our community and what in the long run it may even contribute to Freemasonry.

DeMolay is described by Brother Frank Land as a youth organization for young men whose purpose is the building of better citizens.

For those of you who have never been exposed to the teaching of DeMolay, I can say from experience that it teaches many of the same moral lessons that we have been taught in Freemasonry, plus a few more. There are seven Cardinal virtues that a DeMolay is taught to adhere to and strive to uphold.

These include the lesson of Filial Love or love for one's parents and the desire to return the love and devotion they have received from them.

Reverence for God. A genuine belief in a supreme being is a fundamental principle of DeMolay and one of the basic principles of Freemasonry.

Courtesy toward others is one Cardinal virtue that seems to be a lost ingredient in present day society.

Fidelity is yet another virtue revered by members of the Order of DeMolay, and portrayed in the allegory of the DeMolay Degree. To give up one's life rather than betray a trust reposed in him is the lesson.

Patriotism. Above all DeMolay teaches its young men to be loyal to their government and to respect the law.

Cleanliness in thought, word and deed are goals a DeMolay is taught to pursue throughout life, along with a great respect for women. One of the lectures of DeMolay teaches a profound appreciation for womanhood and especially motherhood.

The virtue of Comradeship teaches young men the importance of being able to relate to one's fellow man on equal terms. In addition to these lessons, DeMolay also teaches its young men to have respect for parents and compassion for the elderly and less fortunate by never allowing a meeting to close without offering a prayer on their behalf.

In conclusion, I ask you, my Brethren, do we need DeMolay? Aren't these the kind of individuals we would like to see petition our Fraternity? I think the answer to these questions is yes, we most certainly need DeMolay to reaffirm the basic fundamentals

of our youth and to create better citizens for the future of mankind and for the future of Freemasonry.

And DeMolay needs us. Without our help and guidance there will be no more DeMolay Chapters. If in the future you have the opportunity to be a Dad Advisor on an advisory council or just be a helper in transportation or some other service to DeMolay, accept this challenge for the youth of our nation who will be the citizens and the Masons of the next generation.