

How to Define What Masonry Means To Me

The goal of this topic is to create a discussion in Lodge that might help every member in attendance feel more comfortable with discussing the fraternity with those who are not members. The leader should ask the following questions, and try to have the brethren participate in the discussion with their comments and answers. The leader should be ready to ask follow-up questions, or rephrase the questions, to encourage discussion. The leader can create additional or substitute questions, and can add comments and explanations during the discussion. A few possible comments are provided below, as well.

The length of the program should be 7 to 15 minutes, but could go longer if the discussion is interesting.

Are you reluctant to discuss Freemasonry with non-Masonic friends? Do you have any examples when you did, or when you could have and did not?

Leader could give an example of his own.

What about our Fraternity would most impress your friends? (Some answers the brethren might say include: Brotherhood. Activities. Charity. Solemn, meaningful initiations. Dinners. Family involvement. Community participation.)

Leader can comment that: A member should not complain about the Fraternity, or criticize Lodge meetings, activities, or other members, when talking to non-members. He should discuss those things that are positive, not negative.

Give me some descriptive words that point out what a Mason is. (The responses could be written on a large sheet of paper or poster, as they are mentioned, so all can see the list they are creating.) Some of these adjectives could be: Honest. Charitable. Family oriented. Involved in community. Involved in church. Always willing to help. Others?

The leader should explain that: There has been much confusion over the years about discussing possible membership with a non-member. The Grand Lodge Code, in fact, has been changed to provide a very precise explanation of how far a member can go in asking another to join. The code (Chapter 34:01 (b) says: "...there is no objection to selectively identifying a man whom you believe would make a good Mason and explain that you would be proud to sponsor him for membership in a symbolic lodge. After the procedure for obtaining membership in a Masonic Lodge is explained, the potential candidate should be left to make his own decision and come of his own free will."

Pass out Ohio's pamphlet.