

What Should One Not Say About Freemasonry?
(Adapted from an article in the Indiana Freemason)

In one of the lectures of the Master Mason Degree, the newly raised Brother is enjoined to be watchful and guarded in words, as well as in thoughts and actions, “ever bearing in remembrance those truly Masonic virtues, silence and circumspection.”

Most Freemasons understand that they should refrain from talking about anything that pertains directly or indirectly to the signs, words, grips and other means of recognition. The same commitment of silence applies to all symbolic instruction, to the methods of conferring degrees, to the obligations of those degrees in whole or in part, and to the capstone of the Master Mason Degree known as the Hiram Legend.

What too many of our Brethren do not understand is that every family has its private business into which no one is entitled to intrude; that the mystic tie of Freemasonry should be the ultimate in safeguarding that privacy, particularly when it affects the name and reputation of another man and/or his family.

What constitutes irresponsible talk? What should one say?

In broad and general terms, silence and circumspection should govern every Mason in every matter that falls in the category of the private business of his or any other Lodge.

Specifically, that means absolute silence in the presence of all except members of the Craft on such subjects as these:

- That John Doe has petitioned or is about to petition for the degrees.
- That an Investigating Committee, with or without names, has been appointed to inquire into the petition of John Doe.
- That John Doe has been elected or rejected, including the nature of the Investigating Committee’s report and including information as to how any Brother voted.
- That John Doe is to receive, or has received, a degree until after he has been raised.
- That John Doe hasn’t paid his dues.
- That John Doe has asked the Lodge for financial or other assistance.
- That John Doe has been or is about to be suspended for non-payment of dues.
- That John Doe has been charged with un-Masonic conduct.
- That a trial in the case of John Doe is to be, or has been, held, including testimony given by witnesses, the verdict rendered, the penalty invoked, and the vote of any Brother in attendance at the trial.
- That certain information was given by one Master Mason to another in Masonic confidence, and the nature of that information.