

The Catholic Catechism on Freemasonry

Lecture Series on Freemasonry Through the Light of Catholicism

– Instructor David L. Gray, M.A.T.

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Session Three – Freemasonry as a Religion

The objective of the third lecture is to demonstrate how Freemasonry is a syncretic fraternal religion according to what Freemasonry says about itself and the path to salvation that it conveys upon its candidates through its rituals (Sacraments).

CATHOLIC
CATECHISM ON
FREEMASONRY
LESSON THREE -
RELIGION

The Cheat Sheet - Two Quick Proofs

The 'Not-A-Religion' Argument from Freemasons

To the Contrary - Response to the Self-Definition

The Sacraments of Freemasonry

The Legend of Hiram Abiff



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- FREEMASONRY IS A RELIGION

It's a Duck Because it Quacks

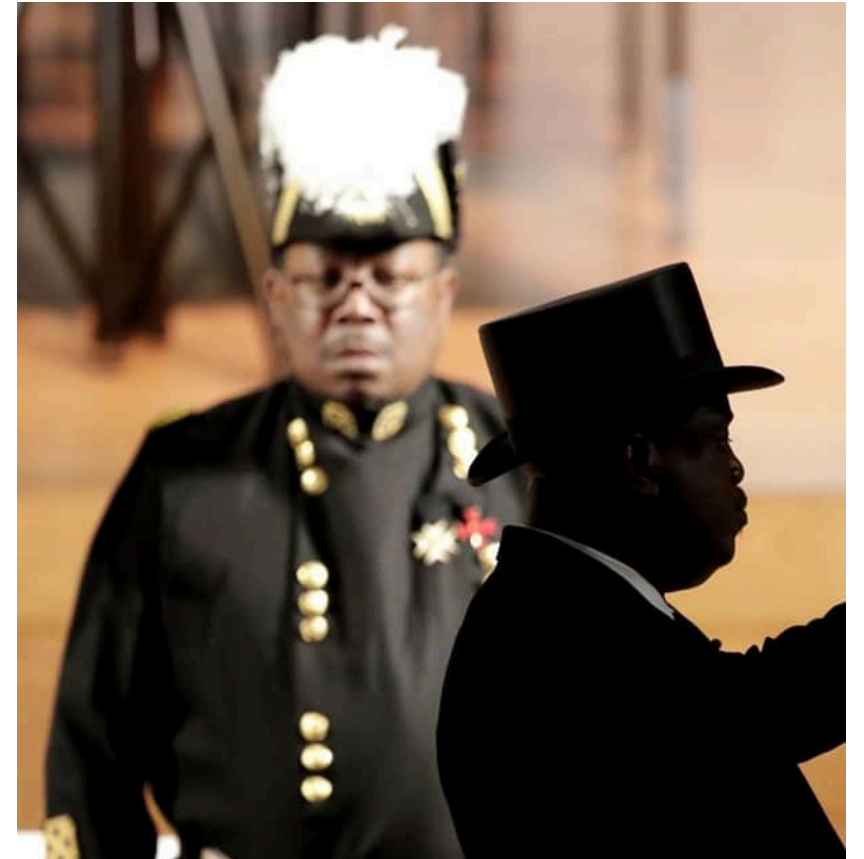
1. The argument for religiosity is plain in pointing out things inherited from the Catholic/Anglican Guilds, such as deacons, chaplains, altar, but that does not prove it is a religion.
2. Rather, the plainest evidence of Freemasonry being a religion is that the founding document of its Mother Grand Lodge explicitly calls itself a 'Universal religion' and the 'Center of Union'.
3. Freemasonry incorporates syncretism; meaning that it has an established religious belief system that incorporates elements, practices, and traditions from other religions into itself

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- FREEMASONRY IS A RELIGION

Freemasonry is a Religion in Common Form

1. Posits that there is a God or gods
2. Posits a Moral Law
3. Offers sacraments or the means for their members to draw nearer to God/the gods or the means for personal betterment
4. Intends for those sacraments or means to lead to a life after death
5. Has the ability on a global or local level to enforce or normalize tradition, regularity, moral law, and orthodoxy through an authority figure(s) and/or by means of a magisterial interpretation of a sacred text.



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- FREEMASONRY IS A RELIGION

The Arguments from
Freemasons that Freemasonry
is *not* a religion

Freemasonry does not
have a dogma or
theology

Freemasonry does not
have a magisterium to
enforce orthodoxy

Freemasonry does not
confer sacraments

Freemasonry does not claim to
offer a path to salvation by
works, secret knowledge, or by
any other means

Freemasonry is not a religion
because its members are not
allowed to speak of other
religions in open lodge

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- FREEMASONRY IS A RELIGION

Freemasonry does not
have a dogma or
theology

Freemasonry professes a named
God (Grand Architect of the
Universe) that it obliges its
members to refer to their God as

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- FREEMASONRY IS A RELIGION

Freemasonry has a Moral Law that obliges all of its members to obey. The consequence of not obeying Masonic moral law may lead to either suspension or expulsion following the summary judgment of their Grand Master or by a trial in their lodge,

Freemasonry does not have a magisterium to enforce orthodoxy

Grand Lodges act as a magisterial body through which they enforce the tradition, regularity, moral law, and orthodoxy through the mechanism of granting or with-drawing recognition from other Grand Lodges.

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- FREEMASONRY IS A RELIGION

Freemasonry does not confer sacraments

Freemasonry has Sacraments through which their mysteries and beliefs are conveyed or professed,

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- FREEMASONRY IS A RELIGION

Freemasonry does not claim to offer a path to salvation by works, secret knowledge, or by any other means

Through the working tools conferred on the initiate through their Sacraments, Freemasonry offers a path and means of self-improvement by which its members will be better enabled to reach an afterlife

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Freemasonry is not a religion because its members are not allowed to speak of other religions in open lodge

Not a requirement for religion. This is like saying Catholicism is not a religion because the Priest never speaks about Protestantism during his homily; or that Islam is not a religion because the Iman never mentions Judaism during his Friday sermon at Jummah



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- FREEMASONRY IS A RELIGION
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The Freemason's Plan for Salvation

- The Three Degrees have Sacramental Qualities
 - Advancement in Enlightenment
- Autosoteric (saved by self) vs. Heterosoteric (saved by other)
 - Pelagianism revisited

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Session 3.1 Philosophy of the First Degree

Now having been grounded in the history, structure, and sacramental system of Freemasonry, the objective of the first deep dive into the craft lodge degree system is to demonstrate how Freemasonry inveighs against Catholic soteriology through the Entered Apprentice Degree..