

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Resources on Secret Oath-Bound Societies

Resources by Brethren or Mennonite Authors:

- Durnbaugh, Donald F. *The Brethren Encyclopedia (4 volumes)*. Oak Brook, IL: The Brethren Encyclopedia, Inc., 1983, 2005. The articles on "Secret Societies" (pp. 1163-1164) and "Freemasonry" (p. 514) explain how the various Brethren groups viewed membership in secret societies during their many decades of existence.
- Durnbaugh, Donald F. *Fruit of the Vine*. Elgin, IL: Brethren Press, 1997. This detailed history of the Church of the Brethren includes a brief but significant and well-stated reference to the "Masons" (p. 390).
- Flory, John S. *H. C. Early, Christian Statesman*. Elgin, IL: Brethren Publishing House, 1943. This sermon on the New Testament church has good insights on secret societies (pp. 107-108).
- Graybill, Larry. "The Masonic Lodge—a False Religion." *BRF Witness*, Vol. 23, No. 1, 1988. Available online at www.brfwitness.org. The article names a number of reasons why Christians should not hold membership in oath-bound secret societies.
- Kauffman, Daniel, Ed. *Doctrines of the Bible*. Scottsdale, PA: Mennonite Publishing House, 1952. Chapter 9 gives reasons why Mennonites prohibited membership in secret societies (pp. 522-531).
- Kurtz, Daniel Webster. *An Outline of the Fundamental Doctrines of Faith*. Elgin, IL: Brethren Publishing House, 1914. A section on "Social Clubs" lists important biblical principles that speak against membership in secret societies (pp. 48-49).
- Longenecker, Stephen L. *The Brethren During the Age of World War*. Elgin, IL: Brethren Press, 2006. The writer explains how Brethren in the early 1900s dealt with membership in secret societies and in labor unions (pp. 171-172).
- Martin, Harold S. *New Testament Beliefs and Practices: A Brethren Understanding*. Elgin, IL: Brethren Press, 1989. This study includes a brief section on secret societies (pp. 91-93).
- Moore, J. H. *The New Testament Doctrines*. Elgin, IL: Brethren Press, 1915. Moore explains that secret orders prohibited by the early Brethren are religious institutions that promise redemption and eternal life apart from faith in Christ (pp. 147-149).
- Sappington, Roger. *The Brethren in Industrial America*. Elgin, IL: Brethren Press, 1985. The book deals with struggles the Brethren had in the late 1800s with determining whether or not the Grange (Patrons of Husbandry) was truly a secret society (pp. 76-77).

Snyder, Graydon F. & Shaffer, Kenneth M. *Texts in Transit II*. Elgin, IL: Brethren Press, 1991. The chapter on secret societies (pp. 131-137) quotes John 18:19-24 and comments on the text in its biblical setting, in Brethren life, and in today's world. It concludes with a case study related to the issue.

Other Resources:

Ankerberg, John, and John Weldon. *The Secret Teachings of the Masonic Lodge: A Christian Perspective*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1990. This is a 333-page detailed study of the Masonic Lodge.

Ankerberg, John, John Weldon, and Dillon Burroughs, *The Facts on the Masonic Lodge*, rev. ed. Eugene OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2009. Dillon Burroughs has updated this well researched booklet originally written by Ankerberg and Weldon.

Barrett, David V. *A Brief History of Secret Societies*. New York: Carroll and Graff Publishers, 2007. In 307 pages, Barrett attempts to trace the history of many religious or semi-religious groups that have claimed secret knowledge from ancient times to the present. He believes that Christians have often attacked these groups unfairly.

Carlson, Ron, and Ed Decker. *Fast Facts on False Teachings*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1994. This booklet includes a 20-page chapter on "Freemasonry and the Masonic Lodge" by Ed Decker, who was converted from Mormonism.

Jacob, Margaret C. *The Origins of Freemasonry: Facts and Fictions*. Philadelphia, PA: The University of Pennsylvania Press. 2007. Margaret Jacob, Professor of History at UCLA, gives information from the diaries of Masons, and discusses the place of women in Masonry. The author, who is not a Mason, tells how women have been in Freemasonry in France since the 1700s. She uplifts the fact that gender as well as race are issues for many Masons. She writes in her conclusion that "in the United States Freemasonry is in serious decline, with numbers dwindling and lodges closing."

Jeffers, H. Paul. *The Freemasons in America: Inside the Secret Society*. New York: Kensington Publishers, 2007. . This book describes Masonic influences in the early founding of America.

Larson, Bob. *Larson's New Book of Cults*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1982 (revised 1989). "Freemasonry," pp. 236-239. The book gives helpful summaries in simple language on the history, the symbols, and the purpose of the Masonic Lodge. The writer disapproves of membership in secret orders.

Poll, Michael R., ed. *Masonic Enlightenment: The Philosophy, History, and Wisdom of Free-masonry*. This book is supportive of the Masons. Chapters by various authors deal with "Freemasonry in America's Founding," "Women and Freemasonry," "Egyptian Influence on Masonic Ritual," "Rosicrucianism and Freemasonry," and "Masonry and World Peace." The chapter, "Women and Freemasonry," by Dudley Wright, includes a description and translation from French of the 1791 Ritual of Freemasonry for Ladies.

Salza, John. *Masonry Unmasked: An Insider reveals the Secrets of the Lodge*.
Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor, 2006. The author is a Roman Catholic and
a former Mason, who describes Masonic rituals and compares them with
Christianity in an attempt to dissuade others from joining or staying in lodges.
The Roman Catholic position is that "the faithful who enroll in Masonic
associations are in a state of grave sin and may not receive Communion."

Storms, E. M. *Should a Christian Be a Mason?* Kirkwood, MO: Impact Christian
Books, 1999. This book is sharply critical of the Masons.

The committee acknowledges that all who use the Internet can click on search
engines, and can seek various resources, doing research on their own. There are even
novels written about those who use secret rituals. We can recommend the resources
listed in the above bibliography as being valuable to the reader, but not all of the
sources are supportive of the 1954 Church of the Brethren position paper.