

## **The Principle Tenets of Freemasonry** (Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.)

To understand this subject clearly we must first get a definition of the word “Tenet.” A “Tenet” is a theory of teaching so universally accepted that no one questions that it is true.

### **Brotherly Love**

Brotherly Love is one of the closest associations that could possibly exist between two people. In the Masonic Sense we must be willing to overlook or forget petty grievances or peculiarities. We must strive to see the good things in our Brethren that will make us love them. We must cast aside our passions and prejudices and remember, “All men are my Brethren.” We must remember that, “By the exercise of Brotherly Love we are taught to regard the whole human species as one family, the high and low, the rich and poor, who are taught to aid, support, and protect each other.”

### **Relief**

Relief is thought of most commonly as a form of charity, but Masonic relief has yet another meaning. A person may be distressed in many ways other than financial. He may have a business or a family problem that is discouraging to him, and a helpful suggestion may give him the relief he needs. He may be lonely because he lacks proper associations; then a cheerful word may be the relief he seeks. We claim that there are many ways of giving relief, and to relieve the distressed is a duty incumbent on all men. To sympathize with their misfortunes, to console them in their sorrows, and to restore peace to their troubled minds, these are the great aims we have in view. We as Masons must be alert to recognize these opportunities and offer our services in the way that will best bring relief.

### **Truth**

Truth is the opposite of falsehood. When a person’s word is as good as his bond, he is classified as being truthful. To be good and true is one of the first lessons we are taught in Masonry. Unless a person has a reputation for being truthful, he is not normally qualified to become a member of our order. Truthfulness is one of the fundamental requirements of good citizenship. Without truth there would be no foundation for trust and fellowship. Freemasonry’s Motto is; “Let There Be Light.” In this sense truth has a much deeper meaning. In Masonry there is a never-ending search for more truth and light. There is a great storehouse of truth for every Mason to explore. It cannot be transferred from person to person in the same manner in which we communicate our ritual, and our secrets. It must be found by personal search. To each person it presents a different interpretation. With this in mind we urge you to consider carefully the teachings of the craft as you progress in your Masonic Journey.