

T.F.S.

Three, five, and seven

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By Stan Shapiro, Grand Lodge Education Officer G.L. of MN

#194

William Burroughs, the novelist and poet, in a wry moment wrote – “After one look at this planet, any visitor from outer space would say – “I want to see the manager.”

Incivility Is Permeating Our Society

Freemasonry reinforces our ethical convictions, feelings of brotherly love and our obligations to be civil in our dealings with other people. This mutual respect and tolerance engenders a more caring environment or positive emotional imprint.

Unfortunately our society is full of uncivil behavior including spewed hate, slurs, insults, inflammatory media personalities, and explosive violence. Some adults seem to get vicarious pleasure or actually thrive on this negativism and rancor. For most of us these create a roiling unrest in our soul and psyche. This incivility is as harmful to our society as the toxic pollution in our environment and creates a negative emotional footprint that can breed aggressiveness and demoralization.

This disregard of others has become more commonplace in public among our athletes, celebrities, and people in the media and even in some families when ugly opinions and feelings are expressed. We witness disrespect, rudeness, invective fulminating and incivility in stores, public transportation and other places in the community.

Because we are human there may be times when we are about to be or have been uncivil. As Masons we can serve as a mentor and model in our family and community and stop our negative or angry attitude and/ or behavior. We can validate with each other the uncivil behavior we have witnessed in our community and choose to help others be aware of its destructive influence. These are some of the ways we can help to create a positive emotional footprint in our world. What would you suggest?

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Words to Live By: "Masonry gives us all a chance to do and to be; to do a little, however humble the part, in making the world better; to be a little larger, a little fuller in our lives, a little nearer to the G.A.O.T.U. And unless a man understands this, believes it, takes it to his heart, and lives it in his daily life, and strives to show it forth to others in his every act— unless he live and love and labor in his Masonry—I say he is no Master Mason;---- “ Carl M. Claudy

The Education Videos by our education committee can be viewed at:

<http://www.youtube.com/glmned>

The latest Masonic Monday Question, and some of the past questions, can be viewed at www.Lodgebuilder.org and at www.mn-masons.org