

Looking at Freemasonry through Christian Glasses

Many men who are recruited, or encouraged to petition the Masonic Lodge for membership, join Freemasonry with the belief that participation is consistent with a sincere expression of faith in Jesus Christ. That is all the more likely to be the case when the potential member is recruited from within the church by other church members. If a man knows that the pastor or another church leader is a Lodge member, Freemasonry is effectively endorsed by church leadership. If it were not compatible with Christianity, the pastor wouldn't be involved, he may reason. When he goes into the Lodge, he will likely view what he sees through Christian glasses, or through a Christian paradigm. Many men mistakenly believe that Freemasonry is a Christian organization because they are misled by their Christian paradigm. They have no appropriate paradigm which allows them to accurately understand Freemasonry.

Paradigms

A paradigm is a model of reality. All of us have paradigms whether we realize it or not. We interpret literally everything we see through one or more of our paradigms. Paradigms often dictate how we are able to view something. If we do not understand how an inappropriate paradigm can confuse our understanding, we are easily misled.

In order to understand how the use of an inappropriate paradigm - or set of paradigms - can cause confusion, consider a man who had never seen or heard of an airplane. Try to

interpret things through his eyes as he deals with a new experience. He has no concept of manned flight. He has a variety of experiences which have allowed him to form a set of valid paradigms - models of reality - for his previous experiences. If we were to get him to sit next to the pilot of a small two place Cessna and the pilot started the engine at the end of the runway which stretched out before them, would the man would think, "We are about to fly.?" Of course not. He does not recognize the concrete surface in front of him as a runway, but rather as a road. He has no concept of an airplane or of an appropriate surface on which an airplane would take off and land. If he looks off to the right and sees an orange wind sock held perpendicular to the runway by a stiff breeze, he knows that the wind is blowing briskly. His wind paradigm allows him to understand something he cannot see, but he does not fathom the great significance of the cross wind in that particular situation. He will understand the sound of the engine for what it is; he has seen engines on tractors, trucks and other machinery. He expects engines to create noise and possibly some visible smoke from the exhaust. He cannot see any fuel, or the fuel tanks hidden in the wings, but he would intuitively know that both were present because his paradigm would require them. He is unable to correctly understand part of what he sees and hears because he filters what he sees through his past experiences and education. When they start down the runway, he possibly understands that a propeller

is much like a fan and therefore, it is not surprising that it pulls them down the road. He will see the propeller as a fan because he has a paradigm which allows it. If he had no fan paradigm, he would likely assume that the wheels were somehow driven directly by the engine, as most other vehicles are; he could be quite puzzled by the propeller. When the wheels leave the ground and he looks down, all of a sudden he gets a new paradigm and he is then able to understand things in the future based upon this new paradigm. It would allow him to understand the possibility of traveling from Washington to London in a way other than by sea, for instance. After a few takeoffs and landings in a stiff cross wind, he will no longer view the taut wind sock in quite the same calm manner. Until he gains the set of new paradigms which allow him to understand manned flight, he will not be able to understand how inappropriate and misleading his earlier paradigms had been to this new situation.

Everything new we experience will be viewed initially through our existing paradigms. We usually give no thought to whether or not our paradigms might confuse us. We usually come to know that our previous experiences have not prepared us to understand something new only when what we perceive clearly falls outside of the realm of possibility. At that point, we learn that the paradigm we were attempting to use is invalid. When we come to understand reality, we develop a new paradigm which is valid for the new situation.

A great many of the Masons who claim to be Christians are confused about the true nature of Freemasonry because they are misled by their paradigms. When a man who is a Christian petitions for Lodge

membership, he is investigated. The investigating committee will ask him a series of questions. They may ask his neighbors and others who know him about his character. The mere fact that he is investigated will cause him to believe that Freemasonry is very particular about the character and beliefs of the men who are admitted for membership. The process of investigation may cause him to view Freemasonry all the more favorably because everyone is not accepted. One of the questions which is always asked is, "Do you have faith in the existence of A Supreme Being?" Most Christians, without giving it a second thought, will interpret this question as "Do you have faith in God?" Many Masons actually believe that a man must have faith in God to be a Mason. Some believe that a man must be a Christian to be admitted, yet the Jewish Mason knows better.

Does Freemasonry actually require faith in God? Your answer to that question will likely be determined based upon your understanding of the phrase "A Supreme Being." That understanding may be the result of the use of a paradigm which models God as the only Supreme Being.

God as revealed in the Scriptures

The Scriptures, the written foundation of Christianity, reveal that there is only one God who created the heavens, the earth and man.

I am the Lord, and there is no other; apart from Me there is no God.
(Isaiah 45:5)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
(Genesis 1:1)

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;
(Genesis 1:26)

The Scriptures reveal that God is a Spirit.

God is a Spirit; and they that worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth.
(John 4:24)

Scripture contains many accounts of men worshipping false gods. A good example would be those who worshipped Baal at Mt. Camel (1 Kings 18). Scripture makes clear that there are many false gods and that many people groups have worshiped them.

For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens.
(Psalms 96:5)

Pagans are those who worship a god who is not the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The Scripture reveals that those who have not embraced Jesus Christ do not have the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.
(2 John 9)

Another fact revealed in Scripture is that false gods, for example those of the Gentile peoples which surrounded Israel, are actually demons:

What do I mean then? That a thing sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God; and I do not want you to become sharers in demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.
(1 Cor 10:19-21)

The Trinitarian nature of God has been revealed many places in Scripture. God is revealed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These three manifestations of God always act in

unity and agreement. Jesus, the Son, said:

"I and the Father are one."
(John 10:30)

The Holy Spirit is also revealed as God:

But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? "While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."
(Acts 5:3-4)

Paul expressed the Trinitarian nature of God in the dispensing of the gifts of the Holy Spirit:

Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons.
(1 Cor 12:3-6)

The Christian paradigm - the model of reality - concerning God and false gods is formed on the basis of the contents of Scripture. We know that there is only one God who exists as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We know that pagans neither worship God, nor have faith in Jesus Christ as one person of the Trinity. We know that pagans worship demons, rather than God. We understand that all those who do not follow in the teachings of Jesus, those who do not view Jesus as God and the Son of God do not have God. Jesus explained that those who know Him, know the Father.

So they were saying to Him, "Where is Your Father?" Jesus

answered, "You know neither Me nor My Father; if you knew Me, you would know My Father also."

(John 8:19)

Scripture states the crucial importance of knowing Jesus. A person cannot come to the Father, except through Him:

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

(John 14:6)

Non-Christian paradigms of God

When Freemasonry interviews a pagan who has petitioned for Lodge membership - for instance a Mormon, Moslem, or Hindu - they ask him if he has faith in the existence of "A Supreme Being." Members of all three of these groups are able to answer yes and may be admitted for membership. Actually they interpret the question much as a Christian would and will understand the question as, "Do you have faith in God?" When they answer yes, are they actually expressing faith in God, or are they expressing faith in a false god?

The Mormon Paradigm

The Mormon is able to answer affirmatively, that he has faith in the existence of "A Supreme Being," as he has faith in the Mormon god Elohim. Mormons believe that Elohim was once a man who lived on a planet near a star named Kolob. Elohim did not create the planet, the star named Kolob, or anything else on the planet upon which he was born. Elohim was simply a man. As part of his salvation experience, Elohim was exalted into Godhood and given a planet (Earth) to populate with spirit children produced through celestial sex with his goddess wives. The first born of these spirit children was the Mormon Jesus. Lucifer is

another of Elohim's spirit children, making Jesus and Lucifer brothers, according to Mormon doctrine. Mormons claim faith in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, but they do not believe that these are three personalities of the same Spirit. Mormonism teaches that the Father and the Son both have physical bodies. It teaches that the Holy Ghost is a "personage of Spirit" and does not have a body of flesh and bones like the Father and the Son. Mormons do not believe in the Trinitarian God.

Notice that it is necessary to understand both the Mormon paradigm and the Christian paradigm about God in order to know that Mormonism is in error.

Try to view God using the Mormon paradigm and then the Christian paradigm. Notice that using either the Christian or Mormon paradigm, a person would be able to state that they believe in God, or even that they believe in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Without understanding both the Christian and the Mormon paradigms, it would be impossible to know how the answer, "Yes.," is actually the answer to two different perceptions of the question concerning faith in the existence of "A Supreme Being." The Christian is implicitly stating, "Yes, I have faith in the existence of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God with three personalities." The Mormon is implicitly stating, "Yes, I have faith in God who was once a man living on another planet and also believe in his first born son - a spirit child - a separate spirit." The Christian who is able to view the question, switching between the two paradigms is able to see the problems. Mormons are not strangers to Freemasonry. Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism, was a Mason. His brother Hiram and Brigham Young were also Masons. Mormon temple rituals are based upon Masonic ritual.

The Moslem paradigm

A Moslem who is asked if he has faith in the existence of "A Supreme Being" is able to answer affirmatively because he has faith in Allah. "There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his prophet," is an often repeated phrase within Moslem circles.

Islam was founded by Muhammad who was born approximately A.D. 570 in Mecca. Muhammad encountered both Judaism and Christianity on the trade routes he traveled with a camel caravan. In A.D. 610, Muhammad reported that he had been visited by the angel Gabriel. The message Muhammad claimed to have received from Gabriel became the essence of the Koran, the holy book of Islam. Islam was founded in Arabia in approximately A.D. 628-630, 600 years after the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Arabian peoples belonged to many different tribes who worshipped different pagan deities. Muhammad taught that there was only one God and that his name was Allah. Before Muhammad received his revelation, Allah was the supreme Deity already familiar to the Bedouin people of northern Arabia. Muhammad purged Mecca of hundreds of its pagan gods, establishing a monotheistic religion.

Muhammad used a scimitar, or large knife, to kill those who worshipped other gods in his drive to "rid the Ka'aba of idolatry." (Shriners use the scimitar, the crescent moon and star of Islam as symbols for the Shrine, declare that Allah is the God of their fathers and take an oath upon the Koran.) Muhammad and Islam decreed death to all those who do not worship Allah. The people of Islam were no better off after Muhammad "purged idolatry" from the Ka'aba than they were before, because they simply exchanged the

worship of one demon for another. Moslems claim that Allah is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, yet they teach that he has no son. Islam teaches that Jesus is only a prophet, inferior to Muhammad.

Since the Christian paradigm holds that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, while the Moslem paradigm models God as Allah alone, we can easily understand that the Moslem envisions a false reality when he is asked if he has faith in the existence of "A Supreme Being." He believes that his faith in Allah is faith in THE Supreme Being. He is mistaken; Allah is a false god, or demon.

The Hindu Paradigm

The Hindu is able to respond to the question, "Do you have faith in the existence of A Supreme Being?" affirmatively through his faith in Brahman, one or more of the incarnations of Vishnu, or one of the many other Hindu gods. If Hindus believe in many gods, how could a Hindu truthfully state that he has faith in the existence of "A Supreme Being?" The Hindu paradigm concerning God is quite different from the Christian paradigm. Hinduism adheres to monotheism, monism and pantheism, simultaneously. Monotheism is the belief that there is only one God. Monism is a philosophy that holds that everything is an extension of one reality. All differentiation is an illusion which is absorbed into the one source of all that exists. Pantheism is the belief that everything is God. This misconception of the nature of God forms the essence of Hinduism. Brahman is believed to be the life-principle or force that exists in all that is. Man is not a separate spiritual entity apart from the spiritual entity who created him. Rather, man and every thing that exists is a part of Brahman. Although Hinduism worships many lesser gods, they are viewed as extensions of Brahman.

Therefore, when a Hindu looks at the worship of other Hindu gods, he views this worship as worship of extensions of Brahman who is all that is. Brahman and the lesser gods are all one essence. Hindus are tolerant of other religions because they see a similarity in all of them. They view truth as the essence of all religions. Hinduism holds that all religions embrace the same essential truth, yet they have substantial variations in doctrine. These variations of doctrine are thought to be due to the application of the same essential truth to different human situations. All religions are viewed as an extension of the one universal religion. With a knowledge of the Hindu and Christian paradigms concerning false gods, we can understand that the Hindu's affirmative answer to the question about faith in the existence of "A Supreme Being" would be the result of confusion on his part. His paradigm of God is misleading him. Since his paradigm holds that all gods are an extension of Brahman, he would believe that he has faith in the existence of the same God which Christians worship, although he would believe that our understanding of God is limited.

The Masonic Paradigm

Freemasonry is able to accept the Christian's faith in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit as faith in the existence of "A Supreme Being." Similarly, Freemasonry is able to accept the Mormon's faith in a god who was once a man living on another planet as faith in the existence of "A Supreme Being." Freemasonry likewise accepts the Moslems faith in Allah, a god who has no son, as faith in the existence of "A Supreme Being." The Hindu is also able to satisfy the Masonic requirement of faith in the existence of "A Supreme Being" with his faith that everything that exists is part of Brahman. How is Freemasonry able to accept these different,

incompatible concepts of God as expressions of faith in the existence of A (SINGULAR) Supreme Being? Freemasonry is able to do this essentially because the Masonic paradigm of God holds that all men worship the same God, simply using a variety of different names. Somewhat like Hinduism, Freemasonry holds that all of the pagan gods, along with the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are all in essence the same God, viewed from the different vantage points of the many world religions. Freemasonry rejects the concept of a false god, as well as the concept of false religion. These Masonic teachings are clearly explained in Masonic Monitors, Masonic Code and other Masonic materials published by the authorities of Freemasonry, the Grand Lodges. Consider the follow excerpts:

"There never was a false god, nor was there ever really a false religion, unless you call a child a false man." Max Müller - quoted in
LOUISIANA MASONIC MONITOR

Not only does Freemasonry teach that all false gods are actually God by another name, Freemasonry applies teachings of eternal life to all Masons, with or without faith in Jesus Christ:

As Masons we have one faith, one hope, one charity. We believe in, and depend upon the same God, have the same hope of eternal life, and that same charity which is of an enduring and uniting nature, which will enable all the good and true to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace and in righteousness of life.

KENTUCKY MONITOR, p. 169

The Masonic concept of monotheism is much like the Hindu concept of monotheism, rather than the Christian view which dictates that there is One God and many false gods. Hindu monotheism views all

of the various Hindu deities and all gods of other religions as merely extensions of Brahman and therefore actually the same deity. Masonic monotheism holds that all of the various gods of all false religions are the same God as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Freemasonry requires that its members believe in one God. Additionally, Freemasonry requires that its members accept the Masonic doctrine known as the Fatherhood of God, Brotherhood of man. This last requirement is not stated verbally, but rather is implemented by acceptance of organizational requirements.

“The first of the universally recognized Landmarks of Freemasonry states that ‘monotheism is the sole dogma of Freemasonry. Belief in one God is required of every initiate, but his conception of the Supreme Being is left to his own interpretation. Freemasonry is not concerned with theological distinctions. This is the basis of our universality.’”

INDIANA MENTOR’S MANUAL, p. 19

Masonry has no religious dogma other than that it requires a belief in Deity. Any man, good and true, whether he be Christian, Jew, Mohammedan, Parsee, Buddhist, Brahman or Deist may be admitted to Masonry because all these religions require a belief in Deity.

MASONIC CODE ALABAMA, p.141, 1963

To the altar of Freemasonry all men bring their most votive offerings. Around it all men, whether they have received their teachings from Confucius, Zoroaster, Moses, Mohammad or the founder of the Christian religion—just so long as they believe in the universality of the fatherhood of God and universality of the brotherhood of man—meet upon a common level. The Jew returns to his synagogue, the Mohammedan to his mosque and the Christian to his temple—each better prepared for the solemn duties of life by the

associations in this universal brotherhood.

LOUISIANA MONITOR, p. 150, 1988

The Fatherhood of God, Brotherhood of man doctrine embodies the foundation of Masonic teaching. It holds that there is one God who is the Father of all men and is worshiped by men of any and all religions. Freemasonry teaches that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is the same spirit which the Hindus worship as Brahman, the Moslems worship as Allah, the Mormons worship as Elohim, and the Zoroastrians (Parsees) worship as Ahura Mazda.

All Masons implicitly embrace the doctrine of the Fatherhood of God, Brotherhood of man; they put it into practice when they participate in Lodge. Freemasonry prohibits a “discussion of religion” within the Lodge. When a candidate is brought before the Lodge to be voted into membership, no one is allowed to ask if the candidate is a Hindu, Moslem, Mormon, Buddhist, or if he claims to be a Christian. By voting to admit men who may not have faith in Jesus Christ as God into membership, or by sitting in Lodge with such men, the “Christian” Mason and all other Masons put the Fatherhood of God, Brotherhood of man doctrine into practice. By sitting in Lodge, or recognizing other men as Masons, a man implicitly agrees that the other men have met the key requirements for membership. Those requirements are that they believe in the existence of “A Supreme Being” and that they believe that there is only one God. Scripture states that anyone who does not abide in the teachings of Jesus does not have God. (2 John 9) Jesus said, “No one comes to the Father but by Me. (John 14:6) Freemasonry disagrees.

Each Mason, at one point in our ceremonies, expresses a belief in

the existence of a Supreme Being. To refuse or decline to do so would have denied him the privileges of Freemasonry. We welcome to our doors and admit to our privileges Worthy men of all faiths and creeds who possess the indispensable qualifications, and bar none because of their faith or creed.

MASONRY AND THE MASON

Grand Lodge of Texas, p.7, 1997

If a particular Mason were to believe the teachings of Christianity and understand the Christian paradigm which holds that the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons rather than God, he could not knowingly accept a man who has faith in a false god as one who has faith in the existence of “A Supreme Being.” To do so would be to take the inconsistent position that demons are Supreme Beings.

The difficulties in joining men of incompatible religions around the altar of universal religion becomes obvious when the issue of prayer is considered. Freemasonry cannot choose the god of any well known false religion as the object of worship, as even immature Christians would recognize the error immediately. Similarly, they cannot choose Jesus Christ, or the Holy Trinity as the object of worship because Jews, Moslems and others in the Lodge would be offended. The obvious solution is to keep Jesus out of the Lodge and attempt to cause all present to believe or pretend that they are praying to the same spirit they worship when they meet congregationally with others who practice their particular religion. Freemasonry solves this problem with the Masonic paradigm that all men worship the same God, simply using different names.

Freemasons offer prayer to a god who is known as the Great Architect of the Universe (GAOTU.) Freemasonry defines the nature of

the GAOTU with adherence to the Fatherhood of God, Brotherhood of man doctrine. The GAOTU is implicitly defined as Father, Son, Holy Spirit, Allah, the Mormon Elohim, Ahura Mazda, Baal, Molech and all other false gods which have ever been named by man. When Freemasonry causes pagans to join in prayer to the GAOTU, are they then worshiping the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? No, they are still worshiping demons, as would be any Christian who would join with them. Participation in Freemasonry ensnares a man in idolatry.

In the Lodge, prayer is offered by one man for all present. Grand Lodges confirm the nature of Masonic teachings and prayer:

A Mason offering prayer in the Lodge may pray to his God -- observing his own conception of Deity. . . . None should take umbrage because he addresses his prayer to his own conception of Deity. He must use prayer in the Ritual in all ritualistic ceremonies. Any other prayer is out of order in such ceremonies.

MASONIC CODE OF ALABAMA,
pp.141-2,1963

When addressing the Deity in prayer it should never be done in a way that excludes Brothers of other faiths and of necessity should be inclusive and universal, not sectarian or denominational.

MASONIC MANUAL-MINNESOTA,
p109, 1998

Masons believe that there is one God and that people employ many different ways to seek and to express what they know of God. Masons primarily uses (sic) the appellation, "Grand Architect of the Universe," and other non-sectarian titles, to address Deity. In this way, persons of different faiths may join together in prayer, concentrating on God rather than on differences among themselves. Masonry believes in religious freedom and that the relationship between the

individual and God is personal, private, and sacred.

MASONIC MANUAL OF MINNESOTA,
p16, 1998

The Grand Lodge of Indiana reveals that the object of prayer in the Lodge, the GAOTU is not actually God, but rather merely a symbol:

"One fundamental of Freemasonry is its non-sectarian character. Any man may offer his devotions to the Deity he reveres, under the Masonic title, no matter what name he may use in his religious worship. Thus, Great Architect of the Universe (or any of its variations) is a symbol of Deity as named and worshiped in all religions.

INDIANA MENTOR'S MANUAL, p. 49

Christians who accurately understand the Masonic paradigm concerning God will never become a Mason. Those who become aware of the Masonic paradigm after joining the Lodge will renounce Freemasonry. Genuine Christians will not knowingly worship at a pagan altar, be it a Masonic altar or any other.

Church leaders should include teaching about false concepts of God as part of the church's educational program. Some have claimed that we should simply preach the Gospel and ignore error. That is not a sound position for two very obvious reasons. First, addressing error is Scriptural. Paul wrote:

I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn

aside to myths. But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. (2 Tim 4:1-5)

John clearly explained how to recognize the heresies of the Gnostics:

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the Antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

(1 John 4:1-3)

Christians should recognize the spirit behind Freemasonry for what it is. Freemasonry does not confess Jesus. Second, simply preaching the Gospel will not keep church members from becoming ensnared in paganism. Proof of this is present within many churches and often within leadership. Many church members are Masons and members of other pagan fraternal orders, such as the Elks, Eagles, Moose, Odd Fellows, etc. If all church members understood the Masonic paradigm, they would be able to instantly recognize the same heresy when it is taught in other fraternal orders. Freemasonry is the archetype for virtually all other fraternal orders.

Dialog with "Christian" Freemasons has provided evidence that many of them not only understand the Masonic paradigm concerning God, but are willing to defend it. Very few men who are active in Freemasonry over a period of time are ignorant. It is generally the new Mason, or the inactive Mason who is misled.

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