

Freemasonry – What It Is

A Concise explanation For Masons and Non-Masons

VWBro. Glenn McConnell April, 2009

A. Freemasonry is a **philosophy** based on **ethics and morality**.

Ethics and morality refer to standards of conduct and the distinction between right and wrong.

B. The philosophy has 6 components --

1. It is based on a belief in a **divine being**

2. It adopts the 2500 year-old **Golden Rule**:

‘Do unto others as you would have them do unto you’

3. It embraces the **Four Cardinal Virtues** from ancient Greece and advocates their contemplation and daily application:

Prudence Temperance Fortitude Justice

4. It advocates the pursuit of the liberal arts and sciences.

5. It utilizes the **ancient process of initiation** to awaken self-awareness.

Initiation rites and ceremonies have been practiced for tens of thousands of years. They are designed to ‘open the mind and heart’ and induce a transition or transformation. Birth, starting school, starting jobs, marriage, giving birth, retirement, death – are all transitional events. Freemasonry provides an inspiring drama to facilitate a transition to self-enlightenment.

6. It includes **social interaction**.

Masonic social activities continue the opening of the mind and heart and reinforce the philosophy.