

# THAT RELIGION TO WHICH ALL MEN AGREE

BY: BILL MIKLOS, VII

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A CLOSER LOOK AT THE 1723 MASONIC CONSTITUTIONS AND THEIR POSSIBLE  
EFFECT UPON THE LODGE AND BEYOND



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- **I. Concerning God and Religion.**

- A Mason is oblig'd by his Tenure, to obey the moral Law; and if he rightly understands the Art, he will never be a stupid Atheist nor an irreligious Libertine. **But though in ancient Times Masons were charg'd in every Country to be of the Religion of that Country or Nation, whatever it was, yet 'tis now thought more expedient only to oblige them to that Religion in which all Men agree,** leaving their particular Opinions to themselves; that is, to be good Men and true, or Men of Honour and Honesty, by whatever Denominations or Persuasions they may be distinguish'd; whereby Masonry becomes the Center of Union, and the Means of conciliating true Friendship among Persons that must have remain'd at a perpetual Distance (6).

- **THE CHARGES OF A FREE-MASON**

- **Extracted from the Ancient Records of Lodges**
- **beyond Sea, and those in England, Scotland and Ireland,**

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source Anderson's Constitutions of 1723



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## WEBSTER'S DEFINITION OF RELIGION

- a personal set or institutionalized system of religious attitudes, beliefs, and practices
- a cause, principle, or system of beliefs held to with ardor and faith

## BRITANNICA'S DEFINITION OF RELIGION

- **religion**, human beings' relation to that which they regard as holy, sacred, absolute, spiritual, divine, or worthy of especial reverence. It is also commonly regarded as consisting of the way people deal with ultimate concerns about their lives and their fate after death. In many traditions, this relation and these concerns are expressed in terms of one's relationship with or attitude toward gods or spirits;

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- Religion and spirituality, while often used interchangeably, represent distinct but related concepts. Religion is typically understood as an organized system of beliefs, practices, rituals, and community structures centered around a higher power or deity. Spirituality, on the other hand, is a broader concept that encompasses a personal search for meaning, purpose, and connection to something larger than oneself, which may or may not involve
- organized religion
- Source AI

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- Religion can be explained as a set of beliefs concerning the cause, nature, and purpose of the universe, especially when considered as the creation of a superhuman agency or agencies, usually involving devotional and ritual observances, and often containing a moral code governing the conduct of human affairs.
  
- Source: BBC Religion

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- **Constitution of the United States**
- **First Amendment**
- Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.
- Source: US Constitution annotated

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- and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.
- Source; US Constitution article VI

402.060. ALTERNATE HOLY WRITINGS. A candidate for a degree in Masonry may select an alternate Holy Writings on which he will be obligated, but only under the following circumstances:

A. If the candidate does not wish to be obligated on the Holy Bible, he must select an alternate Holy Writings in book form from a list promulgated from time to time by the Grand Master of the Holy Writings of those recognized religions whose theology is not inconsistent with a belief in a Supreme Being and a future existence. The Grand Master's list shall at all times include the al-Kitab al-Aqdas of Bahatism, the Tripitaka of Buddhism, the Analects of Confucianism, the Vedas of Hinduism, the Koran of Islam, the Tanach of Judaism, the Koji-ki of Shintoism, the Adi Granth of Sikhism, the Tao-te Ching of Taoism and the Zend Avesta of Zoroastrianism. In selecting an alternate Holy Writings, the candidate must state that the book chosen is the Holy Writings of his religious faith;



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- Previous slide is from the California Masonic Code.
- How are these tenets relevant in today's world?
- Can you explain why the craft had basis towards various religions in light of these past slides? Do we care? Have we changed? If so how and where?