

**Illinois
Masonic
Education
Themes
*November***

**Grand Lodge Committee
on Masonic Education**

November-EA Charge Paragraph 2

Review the second paragraph of the Charge to Entered Apprentice.

Discussion Questions

1. What are the two working tools that create the primary symbol of Freemasonry? For an Entered Apprentice, which tool is on top?
2. Why is it important for a Mason to believe in Deity and regulate his behavior in accordance to sacred law?
3. Masons are instructed to act upon the square. What does this mean? How does this reflect in his actions?
4. The 2nd paragraph mentions relieving a distressed brother. In what ways, other than financial aid, can a Mason help his brother?

Notes and Guided Answers

1. Square and compasses; square on top
2. For consideration and discussion
3. To act with virtue
4. Many acceptable descriptions

November Supplements

LECTURE XI.

ON CHARITY.

As Charity is one of the principal characteristics of a Mason, we will treat of it in this lecture. We do not mean to make strictures on that modern error of indiscriminately dispensing alms to all supplicants, without regard to their real wants or real merits; whereby the hypocrite and knave often eat the bread which virtue in distress ought to be relieved by. This is a mistaken character of Charity, in which she is too often abused. Though the bounties of benevolence and compassion are given with a righteous wish, yet they should be ruled by discretion.

“When you have afforded the children of misfortune such consolation as prudence directs, you will enjoy the pleasures presented to you with greater relish; I say as prudence directs; for you are not under such obligations to liberality that nothing will excuse you from it: Masonry teaches you that charity must be preceded by justice; and unless a distressed brother’s calamities call for instant assistance, when humanity prompts you to bestow bounties, or when others call upon you so to do, you must not be unmindful of those whom Nature has more immediately connected to you.

If you cannot bestow alms on the necessitous, you may recommend them to those who can; you may drop a tear over their misfortunes, and in something or other be serviceable to them, and in whatever way you can, contribute your mite. Charity with pleasure will accept of it; she will consider the principles by which you were influenced, and if these were proper, she will tell you you have done your duty, that you have her applause, and that, in due time, you will plenteously gather Hie happy fruits of your benevolence.”

A laudable custom prevailed among our ancient brethren; after they had sent their donations to the *general* charities, they considered the distressed of those in *particular* that resided in their respective neighbourhoods, and assisted them with such a sum as could be conveniently spared from the *lodge*. In humble imitation of this masonic principle, I recommend the present charity to your consideration; to which you readily and unanimously consented. The sum is, indeed, but small: yet, when it is considered that this lodge is in its infant state; having been constituted little more than three months: I hope, as the widow’s mite was acceptable, *this* act of ours will be considered, not with respect to the sum, but the principles by which we are influenced.