

ARE YOU YOUR BROTHER'S KEEPER

Regrettably, the word “**secret**” has an evil connotation in the minds of too many people. The “**secret**” may be simply an ambition, an idea, a hope, and a desire. But even if the secret is one of guilt, the brother’s trust in you must not be violated. To betray the confidence placed in you would be unforgivable. To keep his secret may cost you sleepless nights, but it must be kept. The only one who can release you from this trust is the brother, himself.

In actuality, you have also told your brethren that they can count on you to stretch forth your hand to keep them from falling. You have offered them your strength, your ability, your knowledge when they need it. There are no reservations. It matters not whether the aid they need is mental, physical, or monetary. Your promise contains no “**buts.**”

When a brother is in danger of any kind, it is your duty to advise him of his impending peril. In doing so, you must remember that it is not by **your** “plumb line” that you judge him, but by **his**. And it is **his** Square and his Level, not **yours**, by which you are to determine his actions. His opinions may differ from yours politically or religiously, but they are his tools, not yours. When he goes astray from **his principles**, then and only then, should you quietly remind him that he is in error? Then you should assist him to find the right track for **him** to follow.

The concepts of Brotherly Love are to be found in the Five Points of Fellowship. By following them you will help, aid, and assist every brother who might need your support. You will defend your brother against attacks by others, verbal or physical. You will guard his good name as your own. You will do these things and more – much more.

By doing so you will be following the symbolic teachings of the Working Tools of a Master Mason. You have been taught that they are all the implements used by operative masons and Speculative Masons. The Trowel is set apart, however. The ritual tells you it is to be used, symbolically, to spread “**the cement of Brotherly Love and Affection, which unites us into one sacred band or Society of Friends and Brothers – a Temple of living stones, among whom no contention should ever exist.**”

It is important to remember that it is Brotherly Love, the principal ingredient in Freemasonry that unites men of every country, sect, and opinion into a great Fraternity. It is Brotherly Love, in every sense that phrase implies, that can unite the world into one circle with a common interest – peace on earth and goodwill to all men.

These are some of the important lessons to be found in the symbolism of the three degrees in Freemasonry. Learn them well. Teach them to all men everywhere. **–So Mote It Be --**