

“My Brothers, for by that sacred appellation I now address you.” I first heard that phrase in a just and lawfully constituted lodge of Masons when I was raised. I’m sure this lodge looked a little different then, as did some of the brothers. We’ve heard these words before, for some of you many, many times. But what do they mean?

I decided to speak about this topic because a few months back, someone said to me that we Masons use that word Brother too much, to the point where it has no meaning. My quick reply was that if you feel this way, then you’re ignorant to what it means to us. But then I started thinking, do our newest Masons know what it means? Have some of the elder Masons forgotten what it means? I know what it means to me, but does everyone else think the same way?

My Brothers, we will explore the profound significance of brotherhood in Freemasonry, examining what it means to call each other "Brother" and why this bond is considered sacred.

Freemasonry's core tenets—Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth—serve as guiding principles for its members. Brotherly Love, in particular, underscores the importance of treating fellow Masons with respect, kindness, and understanding, fostering a sense of unity and support within the fraternity.

To call another Mason "Brother" is to acknowledge a shared commitment to the values and ideals of Freemasonry. This term transcends mere camaraderie; it signifies a deep, abiding connection rooted in mutual respect and shared purpose. The use of "Brother" is not merely a formality like Mister or Doctor, but a recognition of the sacred bond that unites Masons in their pursuit of moral and spiritual enlightenment.

1. Within the lodge, all Masons are equal, regardless of their social status, profession, or background. This egalitarian ethos is encapsulated in the term "Brother," which levels the playing field and fosters an environment of mutual respect and understanding.
2. The brotherhood of Freemasonry is characterized by unwavering support and solidarity. Masons are encouraged to aid and assist one another, both within the lodge and in their personal lives. This support network is a testament to the strength of the fraternal bond and the commitment to the welfare of fellow members.
3. Calling each other "Brother" also implies a responsibility to guide and support one another in moral and ethical development. Masons are expected to hold each other accountable to the high standards of conduct espoused by the fraternity, offering counsel and encouragement in times of need.

The brotherhood in Freemasonry is considered sacred for several reasons, each contributing to the profound sense of connection and purpose that defines the fraternity.

1. Masonic rituals and symbols are imbedded with deep spiritual significance, reinforcing the sacred nature of the brotherhood. The initiation ceremony, for example, is a transformative experience that symbolizes the candidate's rebirth into the Masonic family, cementing the bond of brotherhood in a solemn and meaningful way.
2. Freemasonry is a global organization, with lodges in nearly every country. The brotherhood transcends geographical and cultural boundaries, creating a universal network of support and fellowship. This global connection is a testament to the sacred nature of the bond, as Masons can find brothers wherever they go, united by shared values and traditions.
3. The sacredness of Masonic brotherhood is also reflected in the commitment to higher ideals and the pursuit of personal and collective betterment. Masons are bound by a shared dedication to

improving themselves and their communities, striving to embody the virtues of justice, charity, and integrity.

4. The bond of brotherhood in Freemasonry is lifelong, extending beyond the confines of the lodge and into the broader community. This enduring connection is a source of strength and inspiration, providing Masons with a sense of belonging and purpose throughout their lives.

Ultimately, the brotherhood of Freemasonry is a testament to the enduring power of human connection and the transformative potential of shared ideals and values. It is a sacred bond that enriches the lives of its members and inspires them to strive for a more just, compassionate, and harmonious world.

“My Brothers, for by that sacred appellation I now address you,” remember to never take lightly your obligation. Know what it means to call someone “Brother” in your mind, in your heart, in your soul, and say it always with reverence, humility, and respect.

Respectfully and Humbly Submitted to the greater fraternity,

A Brother Fraternally Pure in Heart