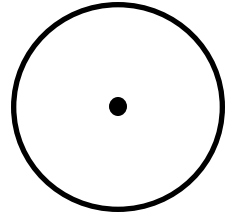


## Due Bounds

The primary objective of Freemasonry is to unite men in a common bond for a better world. Such men then lead by example and other men are impressed and inquire about the Order—we do not solicit new members; we cultivate them.



When a man becomes a Freemason, there is absolutely nothing in our rules, regulations or rituals that says he MUST attend lodge, be in a lodge, participate in lodge processes, participate in lodge ritual, go through the chairs, advance in the Order, or join other concordant bodies. All of these things are totally his choice. That he has become a Freemason and has been provided with our philosophy totally meets our Order's objective and reason for existence.

The reason our Order has carried itself so well for some 300 years (up to 1960) is because it is so well “designed” that many men choose to take part in its processes or “great work,” and help to maintain or further its objective (unite men in a common bond).

Generally speaking, less than 10% of men in a fraternity will choose to fully participate in its operation (goes as low as 4%). Perhaps another 10% will participate at a lower level (including simple attendance at meetings). The reason for this is that most men do not have the aptitude or time for the things required (administration, ritual work, public speaking, and so forth). This is a simple fact of life.

When such men are given the impression that they are OBLIGED to participate in lodge processes (do something they don't want to do) they will likely not attend lodge, and not “cultivate” other men to become Freemasons.

Although there are likely many reasons for the greatly decreased number of new members since 1960, what is said here could be one of the main reasons. It may therefore be important to ask only new members to participate in lodge functions if they have indicated that they wish to do so. Perhaps give them a year to experience Freemasonry without any interference, and then ask them at what level (if any) do they wish to participate—lodge administration (be on the board), simple presentations (working tools etc.), doing lectures or going through the chairs. In this way, members who wish to simply attend lodge and enjoy Freemasonry may do so without feeling guilty for not providing higher participation—always keep in mind that not every man is “cut out” for doing lodge work. Easing their minds will probably make such members more likely to be proud of their membership and thereby act as an incentive for others to join the Order.