

## Master's Message Tolerance

My Brother,

I trust that we are all guided to carry out God's work in our lives. Today I am guided to reflect about tolerance so that is what I will put pen to paper. I am neither a scholastic bookish nor a formalistic person and have no particular mastery of proper written English, none of which matters to God so I won't let it bother me.

What does tolerance mean to me? God tolerates all of our faults, unpleasant words, actions and He does not reject us. But when we permit intolerance, we are at odds with the will of God. No human being is perfect and no life is perfect but we all must be tolerant of others because of these imperfections. When we compel people to be intolerant of others, we are inviting only unpleasant things to occur.

In Freemasonry, to respect the contrast of every man is vital to its teaching. It teaches tolerance toward all mankind. Tolerance, for that reason, is positive and constructive which should not prevent brotherly love to reign. It is the basis and understanding tempered by tolerance and respect, though the teachings on prudence, justice and temperance can be directly attributed to tolerance the same way as brotherly love.

And so my brother, how can we best work and best agree to be better men before God and mankind? God gives tolerance—what do you do with this gift?

We must demonstrate our tolerance by respecting the view of others and to conduct ourselves accordingly unafraid to stand up and reject intolerable acts, wickedness and hatred. Each human being in this world has to answer ultimately to God alone. Each of us has within ourselves the gift to do what is right or wrong and to know the difference. We all make choices every day to follow the divine truth.

We must each look within our hearts to see where our own intolerance lies and strive to fortify our worthiness and to be Operative Masons to our tenets or fundamental principles of Freemasonry not as speculative or abstract teachings but as breathing applications both within the confines of the Lodge and in our daily lives in this ever changing society.

Fraternally yours,

*Phil Calioia*

Worshipful Master