

## **Embrace Templar Ethos**

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We have all heard that “every Christian Mason should be in the Commandery.” But, I do not believe many of our Masonic Brethren would be good for Virginia Templary.

It is not because I am any better than they are, but “Templary is not solely a fraternal brotherhood – it is vastly more than that. We are endowed with a sense of mission which transcends all ordinary fraternal objectives. The Orders of Knighthood require that we live up to the high calling of Christ in our lives; that we take our stand as Christian warriors in the fierce struggle against evil in everyday life; and that we support the Christian Church with all the zeal we possess.”<sup>1</sup>

Today’s Knights Templar are focused on the Christian consciousness and the essential principles of Templar Masonry – the very soul of Freemasonry’s Chivalric Institution – that has survived throughout the centuries. They are highly motivated men of strong moral and ethical qualities. They apply Masonic and Chivalric lessons and principles learned in the York Rites and apply them to serve their fraternal family, their Masonic and Chivalric Brethren, and the public community at large.

The Medieval Knightly System had a religious, moral, and social code dating back to the Dark Ages. While there was never an authentic code, the ***Knight’s Code of Conduct*** was a moral system which went beyond the rules of combat:

- **Loyalty** – “For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice. And in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offering.” (Hosea 6:6)
- **Servant-Leadership** – “Whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave.” (Matthew 20:26-27)
- **Honesty** – “So put away all falsehood and tell your neighbor the truth because we belong to each other.” (Ephesians 5:25)
- **Self-Discipline** – “Do not waste time arguing over godless ideas and old wives’ tales. Spend your time and energy in training yourself for spiritual fitness. Physical exercise has some value, but spiritual exercise is much more important for it promises a reward in both this life and the next.” (1 Timothy 4:7-8)

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<sup>1</sup> ***The Purpose of Templary***, *Charting the Course*, Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U.S.A., 1965, pp 4-5):

- **Kindness** – “What is desirable in a man is his kindness.” (Proverbs 19:22)
- **Humility** – “Don’t be selfish; don’t live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself.” (Philippians 2:3)
- **Excellence** – “Remember that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize. You also must run in such a way that you will win.” (1 Corinthians 9:24)
- **Integrity** – “People with integrity have firm footing, but those who follow crooked paths will slip and fall.” ((Proverbs 10:9)
- **Perseverance** – “So don’t get tired of doing what is good. Don’t get discouraged and give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time.” (Galatians 6:9)
- **Purity** – Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.” (1 Timothy 4:12)

Templar Masonry provides directional signs on the highway of life—Christian directional signs to cultivate men’s minds and physical senses, that Christian Knights may then return with new meanings and fresh understandings and to share the knowledge and understanding with fellow Fratres.

The honor and prestige of Templar Masonry emanates from its lofty standards of morality, its moral teachings, the fact that those teachings are exemplified in the lives of men, who not only believe in them, but demonstrate them in their lives, morally and socially. In other words, we need to take the business of Templar Masonry seriously and maintain it’s ambitious standards.

Through my eyes, that is the Templar Ethos, the spirit, beliefs and aspirations as practiced in the Templar Craft. So, “Be strong and of good courage, fear not, nor be afraid . . . for the Lord thy God, he *it is* that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.” (Deuteronomy 31:6 KJV)

***“Embrace the Challenge”***

***“Stand Up --- Stand Out --- Be Visible --- Be Proud To Be A Knight Templar”***