



Connecting to Colonial’s Covenant – 17
November 15, 2015

Pastor Phelps

NO OATH-BOUND SECRET SOCIETIES

Members of Colonial Hills Baptist Church promise to remain, “Free from oath-bound secret societies; giving the church sacred priority above all institutions.” While such a commitment seems strange in the 21st century, it reflects the wisdom of believers who have gone before us. Evangelicals in the 18th century fought three great social ills: Slavery, Alcohol, and Secret Societies. The pestilence of secret societies was of such importance that Evangelist Charles Finney and Jonathon Blanchard, the founder of Wheaton College, created the National Christian Association (NCA) to warn believers that, “all secret societies (are) diabolical and antagonistic to Christianity (and) tend to loosen _____ ties.” Christian leaders of yesteryear consistently spoke out against secret societies.

- Charles Finney wrote a book entitled, *The Anti-Christ of the Masonic Society*, in which he said, “How can we fail to pronounce Freemasonry an anti-Christian institution? . . . Its morality is unchristian . . . its oath-bound secrecy is unchristian . . . taking of its oaths are unchristian . . . it is an enormous falsehood.”
- Dwight L. Moody said, “I do not see how any Christian . . . can go into these secret lodges with unbelievers. They say they can have more influence for good: but I say they can have more influence for good by staying _____ of them, and reproving their evil deeds. Abraham had more influence for good in Sodom than Lot had.”
- R.A. Torrey said; “I do not believe it possible for a man to be an intelligent Christian and an intelligent Mason at the same time.”
- John R. Rice declared, “For a child of God to be a member of a lodge, a secret order, is a sin!” (*Lodges Examined by the Bible*, p.5)
- Alva J. McClain published, *Freemasonry and Christianity*, in which he said, “The God of Masonry is Not the True God.”

RECOGNIZING SECRET SOCIETIES

It’s ironically true the Masons are the most well known secret society in America but they are certainly not alone.

THE _____ OF A SECRET SOCIETY. “Secret societies are those organizations which completely conceal their rules, corporate activity, the names of their members, their signs, passwords, and usages from outsiders or the ‘profane’ . . . Secret societies were founded to promote certain _____ aims, to be obtained not by violent but by moral measures. By this, they are distinguished from conspiracies and secret plots which are formed to attain a particular object through violent means. Secret societies may be religious, scientific, political or social (*Kirchenlex.*, V, p. 519).

THE _____ OF A SECRET SOCIETY. Several characteristics are common among secret societies: Oaths weighted by the prospect of _____ for all who violate them, initiatory rites, assurances of advancement and enlightenment, symbols, syncretistic inclusion and manipulation of religious writings, promises pertaining to the afterlife, earthly _____, and non-descript “deities.”

REJECTING SECRET SOCIETIES

Secret Societies must be fastidiously rejected by those who claim to be New Testament Christians. Let’s consider but a few of the errors embraced by secret societies:

1. _____ secrecy (John 18:20).
2. _____ oaths (Matt. 5:34-37).
3. _____ alliances (II Cor. 6:14f).
4. _____ wisdom (Col. 2:3; John 7:14).
5. _____ hope of salvation (Eph. 2:8-9).
6. _____ to Christ (I Tim. 2:15; John 14:6).
7. _____ of the church (I Tim. 3:15).
8. _____ idolatry (Lv. 26:1).
9. _____ purposes (I Cor. 10:31).
10. _____ affiliations (I Cor. 8:4).
11. _____ to confess depravity (Rom. 3:10).
12. _____ benevolence (Gal.6:10).

While all of these errors may not be evident in every secret society, some of them are evident in all and none of them should be tolerated by a committed Christian (Eph. 5:11-12).



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