

DISCOURSE

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“Identity Crisis”

Dear Brothers:

Are we as a society and as Masons having an “Identity Crisis?” Identity crisis is described as a theory in which an individual loses a sense of personal sameness and historical continuity. According to Dr. Erik Erikson, an identity crisis is a time of intensive analysis and exploration of different ways of looking at oneself.

My Brothers, our society today is indulging, in self-importance, instant gratification and chameleon like characteristics, which blends individuals into any situation needed within their peer groups by being politically correct regardless of the principles destroyed in the process.

Society today has taken away the individuals identity concerning gender, ethnicity, origin or religious background. We no longer look up at them according to their genders but as “its” we have lost the chivalry, graciousness and politeness practiced by civilized society for centuries in the last two to three decades by the slow erosion of our moral compass.

Our news media, whether television, radio or print are constantly bombarding society with the theme that “Morality cannot be legislated” with lowering the standards of behavior by making acceptable the immoral behavior of national and state leaders if expedient to their causes. All too often, our young people are exposed to liars, thieves and corrupt individuals on a regular basis. With the 24/7, news readily available everywhere in the world the exposure to this type of behavior is unstoppable. Further, the manner of reporting desensitizes the evil of this behavior by the arguments allowed to be put forth by the guilty parties as well as the newscasters. All the while, the children, young adults and rest of society become desensitized as morality continues to be chopped away, with very little reinforcement if any at all, from other sources outside the media.

Politically correctness whether popular in our society has been thrown at us, as a new phase when in reality it’s a new name for the same attempt to try to blend everything between black and white and make everything gray, so that it is acceptable to everyone.

When we practice proper behavior, chivalry, graciousness and politeness, we do not need to be politically correct. When we treat individuals according to their behavior it matters **NOT**, what their gender, ethnicity, origin or religion may be, proper manners have dictated that type of conduct for centuries, we need **NOT** change anything to become politically correct, what we need to do is to zealously practice propriety according to the measure of proper conduct.

It is also politically correct not to right a wrong because of fear of being seen as a bully, or hurting the other person’s feelings because of who they are or are not, no clear rules. Sometimes they correct the offender, sometimes they correct the offended determined by the group feeling or composition at the time, no one knows.

Here is a politically correct action that is totally incorrect in my book. In an effort to treat everyone so special, they do not see who you are as an individual or what you are for as an individual. They want to group us in gray, with no understanding of our character, background and experience all that goes out the window, we are just another number in the gray pile. To be in the wrong side is just another opportunity to blend you into the gray and to be on the right side is absolutely deplorable and elitist. What have we come to?

I for one want to be treated for who and what I am. Take me for all I am with its basic simplicity, no complications, no necessary diagnosis of who I am, it is not difficult, no psychoanalysis needed; treat me, as you

would like to be treated. Earn my respect as I will earn yours. Furthermore, it is easy to find out who I am, open your eyes, listen to my words, look at my accomplishments and you will know who I am. If you are hung up on my looks rather than my personality, you are being too shallow; if you are listening to my accent and not the meaning of my words you are too ignorant, if you are looking at my accomplishments and wonder why, you are too spiteful to understand the dedication and sacrifice needed to reach those accomplishments. Most of all you have missed who I am, and worst of all you probably conducted yourself in the same manner with people in general and have missed who they are for what they are.

Masonry is a great leveler of men where no worldly distinction ever exists. Where all its members are taught that friendship, morality and brotherly love should reign supreme among its membership, where individual growth for the greater good of all is celebrated. This my friends and Brothers is where it is at.

If you are truly a Mason, there is no need for political correctness, for you practice propriety, modesty and decorum. You treat every individual for who and what they are. While you help correct the offenses of those who have committed trespasses with Brotherly love and affection.

No identity crisis for Masons or at least there should not be, we have a unique system of Brotherhood with rules and regulations that go back several centuries, time is on our side. Everyone else has emulated or copied sections of our system, a great form of flattery. They wanted to be like us not the other way around. So my Brothers this is what we are, we are the leaders, we are the Premier Brotherhood, WE ARE MASONS.

Now, that we have had an open discussion on our societal illness, let us eradicate this type of behavior from our midst. Let us be a shining example to our peers in and out of Masonry by practicing propriety, modesty and decorum at all times. Let us conduct ourselves as our God would have us behave towards self and others and we cannot go wrong.

Respectfully and Fraternaly Submitted, I remain your most humble servant

Jorge L. Aladro
Senior Grand Warden

If you would like to receive, these newsletters make request at email below if you would like to forward to your list of friends you have my permission and thank you in advance.

“My Brothers, the newsletters are intended to be thought provoking, to get you to think creatively, to get you thinking what if?, to dare you to improve yourself and your Lodge.”

Note: If you would, like to have any of these presentations made at your Lodge or District Associations feel free to call.

“Masons always rise to the occasion”