

SCOTTISH RITE CORE VALUES

**Six Ways
to Live
Our Values
Every Day**

“Core values are not descriptions of what men do; they describe how to be. Core values are not strategies or maneuvers to achieve selfish goals. Core values are not the tools by which to get an advantage in business, relationships or life.

They should guide men in making decisions, predominate in personal relationships, reveal humanity and show what it stands for.”

Ill. James L. Tungate, 33°,

“True to the Core,”

The Northern Light Vol. 41, No. 3, August 2010

**AS FREEMASONS, OUR DEGREE WORK HELPS US
BECOME BETTER MASONS AND BETTER MEN.**

The lessons and values are as relevant inside the lodge as they are in our private lives. In the Scottish Rite, we continue our journey to more light with degrees that begin at the 4° and lead all the way to the 32°. Each of our 29 degrees has its own lesson, all of which are imparted through a performance that puts these lessons into the context of everyday life. There is a lifetime of learning in each Masonic degree. So how can we make it easier to bring this wealth of knowledge into our everyday lives?

At the Scottish Rite, we adhere to six core values, in addition to our Masonic values of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. These values serve as a blueprint to our daily dealings, and an easy shorthand to applying the craft in all we do:

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE VALUES OF SCOTTISH RITE FREEMASONRY
BY VISITING OUR [WEBSITE](#).**

WATCH OUR “JOURNEY ON” [CORE VALUE VIDEO SERIES](#)



Reverence for God

CORE VALUE 01

For Masons, belief in a higher power is a prerequisite for membership. But what does it mean to practice reverence for God daily? Of course, this can mean many things to many people, and the act of reverence can vary greatly by one's religion or personal

spirituality. However, with the daily challenges and stresses of life, it is easy to forget we are all one family in the eyes of the Supreme Being. Reminding ourselves of this allows us to slow down and truly honor and respect all of God's creations, big and small, every day.



Integrity

CORE VALUE 02

What does your heart tell you in the small but important decisions we face every day? Integrity isn't simply being honest and having moral principles most of the time or just on the big things in life. It is an approach to

living, and a lifelong journey. As Scottish Rite Masons we strive, with authenticity and humility, to develop our personal code of honor and of self as men and as Masons.

Justice

CORE VALUE 03

It is said that justice is integrity's closest cousin. Personal justice involves one's own ethics and is often referred to as conscience. Striving to live a life of unwavering integrity allows us to clearly see what is fair and reasonable.

Applying fairness without contingencies provides moral clarity, imbues empathy, and increases an internal sense of contentment.



Tolerance

CORE VALUE 04

America was built on religious, political and social tolerance. Admittedly, it can be hard to be tolerant when faced with people that oppose our strongest, most steadfast beliefs. This is where Masons can make a huge difference in society and in the lives of others. Rather than dismissing opposing

beliefs and lifestyles, we can choose toleration as a moral virtue. Avoiding defensiveness opens our eyes and ears to differing points of view. It is a moral obligation that allows us to come away with a greater understanding of all people, and become better men ourselves.



Devotion to Country

CORE VALUE 05

Masons are among the most patriotic citizens in the nation. But devotion to country goes further than pride in the flag. Devotion to country is standing up for the rights of our fellow Masons and our fellow citizens. It's having the courage to hold our leaders

accountable to our founding fathers' ideals, no matter from which side of the aisle they come. As a Mason, you can help others from all walks of life share in the pride that comes from standing together as one.

Service to Humanity

CORE VALUE 06

Of all the Scottish Rite values, this may be the one that comes most naturally to Masons. By our very nature, we live to serve our brethren and our communities. Taking time to share, teach, mentor a new Mason, and lead by example are hugely valuable services you can provide to the world and to our Brotherhood each and every day. But with work, family and other

commitments, it's not always easy to find the time. And that's ok. Service is more than a tally of volunteer hours. As Masons, we are in service when we actively apply our values in our everyday lives. Living our truth in harmony with our values is, by extension, an enormous service to our families, our Brothers, and the world around us.

