

Internal & External Qualifications.

In the 2nd section of the lecture of the 1^o it is said that Masonry regards no man for his worldly wealth or honors, it is the Internal and not the External qualifications of a man that should render him worthy to be made a Mason.

What are the Internal Qualifications?

Albert Mackey says in a book called Masonry Defined that every candidate must be qualified by certain essential conditions, and that these qualifications are of two kinds, Internal and External.

The Internal qualifications are those which lie within his own bosom, the External are those which refer to his outward apparent fitness.

The External qualifications are again divided into: Moral, Religious, Physical, Mental and Political.

He goes on to list the Internal qualifications. They are:

1. That the applicant must come of his own free will and accord. His application must be purely voluntary, to which he has not been induced by persuasion of friends.
2. That he must not be influenced by mercenary motives.
3. That he must be prompted to make the application in consequence of a favorable opinion that he entertains of the institution.
4. That he must be resolved to conform with cheerfulness to the established usages and customs of the Fraternity.

Mackey says the External qualifications are:

1. The Moral. That the candidate only is qualified for initiation who faithfully observes the moral law, and leads a virtuous life, so conducting himself as to receive the reward of his own conscience as well as the respect and approbation of those around him.
2. The Religious. Freemasonry is very tolerant in respect to creeds, but it does require that every candidate for initiation shall believe in the existence of a Supreme Being, and protecting power, and in a future life.
3. The Physical. These refer to Sex, Age, and Bodily Conformation. The candidate must be a Man, of a certain minimum age, and be physically sound.
4. The Mental. This division excludes all men who are not intellectually qualified to comprehend the character of the institution, and to partake in it's responsibilities.

5. The Political. This relates to the condition of the candidate in society. I.e.: Being a man Freeborn.....

So there it is. The Internal and External qualifications alluded to in the degrees.

I hope you find this information as interesting as I did.

With Brotherly Love,

Ed Halpaus