



Independent Order of Odd Fellows  
Dedicated Members for Change

November 5, 2014

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

Frank Goulart, Past Grand of the Sycamore Lodge, has sent me a very insightful and interesting submission. I am pleased to share it with you.

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Dave Rosenberg  
Deputy Grand Master

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Brother Dave,

Thank you for starting the dialogue on the issue of odd fellows as morality or religion.

You will recall that sycamore floated a resolution last year to change our "the" to the sovereign grand lodge "a" to describe the supreme being, creator and preserver of the universe.

The resolution was defeated resoundingly after a brother opined that we were removing his god.

As I worked through the issue, it seemed to me that the issue is not really about a belief in a supreme being, with the incumbent question of which supreme being is really the correct supreme being, but a dedication toward a goal of following the golden rule, found in all faiths.

The Old Farmers Almanac has published annually since the 1990's the following observations about the golden rule and how it is articulated in 8 of the major faiths on our planet:

The Golden Rule (it's true in all faiths)

Brahmanism:

This is the sum of duty: Do naught unto others which would cause you pain if done to you. Mahabharata 5:1517

Buddhism:

Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful. Udana-Varga 5:18

Christianity:



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All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them; for this is the law and the prophets. Matthew 7:12

Confucianism:

Surely it is the maxim of loving kindness: Do not unto others what you would not have them do unto you. Analects 15:23

Islam:

No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself. Sunnah

Judaism:

What is hateful to you, do not to your fellow man. That is the entire Law; all the rest is commentary. Talmud, Shabbat 31a

Taoism:

Regard your neighbor's gain as your own gain and your neighbor's loss as your own loss. T'ai Shang Kan Ying P'ien

Zoroastrianism:

That nature alone is good which refrains from doing unto another whatsoever is not good for itself. Dadistan-i-dinik 94.5

So my questions to the members of the committee are these:

Would a dedication to the golden rule result in elevating the character of mankind?

Would a dedication to the golden rule be a better benchmark qualification for prospective odd fellows?

Would a dedication to the golden rule allow for all religious and non-religious good men and women to join with us as odd fellows to elevate the character of mankind?



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Thank you for providing this forum.

Friendship, Love and Truth

Frank Goulart

Sycamore Lodge No 129

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