



Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Dedicated Members for Change

November 23, 2014

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

The "Philosophy of Odd Fellowship" below was sent to me by Jule Machado, from Sycamore #129 in Hayward. Julie spotted this posted on the Facebook page of Sovereign Grand Lodge on October 30, 2014. I'm not sure who posted it, but I wanted to reproduce it here. We may quibble with some fine points, but generally the "philosophy" expounded below is a sound one for an Odd Fellow. It embraces the three links - friendship, love and truth - which will always serve as bedrocks of our Order.

What I find most appealing in this "philosophy" is the following: If all Odd Fellows comported themselves in the manner described, our Lodges would be friendlier, more loving, and more honest places. Our members would feel more comfortable, and importantly, our Lodges would be places that retain members and attract new members to our Order. We would recapture what we once were in Merry Olde England where we originated: a friendly society.

F - L - T

Dave Rosenberg
Deputy Grand Master

PHILOSOPHY OF ODD FELLOWSHIP

An Odd Fellow bases his thoughts and actions on healthy philosophical principles. He believes that life is a commitment to improve and elevate the character of humanity through service and example. He is humble in a way that he never boasts about himself. He knows and accepts his strengths and weaknesses and keeps away from badmouthing people and making unreasonable allegations. He understands that certain things in life are unavoidable. He is aware of the vanity of earthly things, the frailty and inevitable decay of human life and the fact that wealth has no power to stop the sureness of eventual death. He then asks the question, "How am I going to spend my life?"

An Odd Fellow an advocate of FRIENDSHIP and never looks at people with prejudiced eyes or bases his judgment on outward appearances. He supports the idea that all people, irrespective of race, creed, nationality, color, social status, sex, rank and station are equal. He does not take an undue advantage of his power or the weaknesses of those around him. He is gentle in behavior and never inflicts pain. He avoids impurity in thoughts and unchaste conduct. He also knows that



Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Dedicated Members for Change

he should respect himself by following temperance in his desires, fighting vices of every form, chastity of person and purity in heart and mind.

An Odd Fellow is an enactor of LOVE in a way that he feels jointly responsible for his fellow men and prepared to give attention and help wherever and whenever help is needed. He is a person who treats others, especially women and children, with dignity and respect. He accepts the fact that nothing is perfect but believes that he has an obligation to contribute in making the world a better place to live.

An Odd Fellow adheres to equality, justice and righteousness and a pursuit of TRUTH. He sees searching for truth as searching for clarity in the sense of his life. Every time a small piece of truth is found, he will try to use it only in ways where he will be able to be true to himself and his fellow men. Oftentimes, he thinks before he acts and speaks. He knows that, as a human being, it is a fact that he can think. He gives account to himself and knows that before he starts doing something, he can make the choice what to do and can think it over and consider whether the choice was the right one. He believes that making good and well-considered choices is called "behaving in a responsible way".