

“Remember, it is the internal qualifications, not the external, which recommend a man to be a Mason”.

Companions,

Each month during my year in office, I will be highlighting one of the qualities which Masons should possess, and it is important for each of us to examine ourselves to ensure that we continue to possess and display these qualities.

For March, the word is **Integrity**: Firm adherence to a code of especially moral or artistic values : incorruptible; the quality or state of being complete or undivided : completeness

Integrity is our ability to act in ways consistent with the values, beliefs and moral principles we claim to hold. Derived from integer, the Latin word for whole or complete, it refers to a human state of virtue and wholeness. Beyond a single ability, **integrity** is a collection of virtues, including honesty, courage, honour, respect, responsibility, restraint, and authenticity.

The RCMP have six Core Values, Honesty, **Integrity**, Professionalism, Compassion, Respect, and Accountability (HIPCAR). **Integrity** is stated as “acting consistently with the other Core values.” In my mind, it was the most important one to possess. Without having **integrity**, it was impossible to demonstrate the other values.

Masons are expected to act with **integrity** in all aspects of life. Whether they are at home with their families, attending Masonic functions, at work, or in a social setting in their communities, Masons should conduct themselves in a way that demonstrates sound ethical principles.

Integrity is also concerned with accountability and responsibility. As custodians of the Craft, Masons must preserve the secrets and centuries-old rituals for future generations. It’s vitally important that brothers understand the importance of acting with **integrity** to preserve the morality of Freemasonry as a whole.

As masons and companions, we have “declared upon our honour... to be unbiased by improper solicitation and uninfluenced by mercenary or other unworthy motives”. We should not be undertaking or participating in activities which will only benefit ourselves. To improve ourselves is fine, as doing so, we are better able to make ourselves “extensively serviceable” to our fellow creatures.

We live in an age where **integrity** often takes a back seat to power and material success — where “the end justifies the means” is a mantra for too many adults who influence others including children. One must remain incorruptible so that power and wealth do not overtake our thoughts, acts and deeds. As the saying goes, Absolute power corrupts, absolutely.

M. Ex. Comp. Ken

REF: The Core Masonic Values | Freemasons Community