

The District Light

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THINK POSITIVE

We, as a society, say that a positive attitude will yield positive results.



That is probably true. The problem is that we tend to look for the negative in any situation.



Consider these situations in the lodge:

A man has delivered a piece of memory work; you compliment him; he shakes his head and states that he messed up a part.

Or, during a meeting, a man suggests a possible action the lodge could take. Others immediately point out what is wrong with the idea – why it won't work. No-one seems to want to build on the good that the proposal may achieve.



How did we get this way?

Perhaps it starts in the home where the child is given a list of 'don'ts' which grows daily.

Even the positive admonition, "Be good" is based on the

assumption that being bad is the child's first nature.

In the community, it is the restrictions which are publicized. For example, at a hotel pool you will be admonished by the rules, "no running, no swearing, no jumping, no pushing, no pets, no music, no alcohol".

In social situations, our humour often focuses on a deficiency or fault. The jokester feels superior when he observes "The glare from your bald head is blinding me". Or "You haven't been missing any meals lately."

Then the person absolves himself by saying that "I do it because I care about you".

We accept the concept that "to err is human" and the slogan, "You learn from your mistakes". Yes, an error may teach us what not to do next time, but surely we learn more from our successes.

It will take a conscious effort to overcome the range of negatives we experience daily.

Choices

Observe the difference between these two statements: "I'll never forget you." or "I'll always remember you." One is a statement of denial – what will not happen. The other is a declaration of intention or truth. Surely the positive expression is the stronger statement.

But we are burdened with negatives all around. When we are asked, "How do you feel?" the usual answer is, "Not too bad." (There's 'bad' and there's 'too bad' but I'm not feeling either of those.)

Consider how you might make the following statements into positive comments:

- I was not amused. (What did you feel?)
- We must never fail to . . . (What should we do?)
- Why don't you do it this way? (You really do not want to know why someone does not do it your way.)
- I would be remiss if I did not express . . .
- You don't have any ____, do you? (If I don't have any, the correct answer would be "yes, I don't".)

Negativity grinds us down. We come to expect criticism and rejection. It does not need to be so.



We can begin to improve. If we can't be positive, let us at least be less negative.

In the Lodge

The lodge can be a place of peace and harmony, but sometimes negative influences appear.

Positive suggestions are often countered with reasons why they will not work. Wouldn't it be better to show appreciation and support for the concept before questioning the application?

During practices, comments may stress what was wrong. It would do more good to offer the correction.

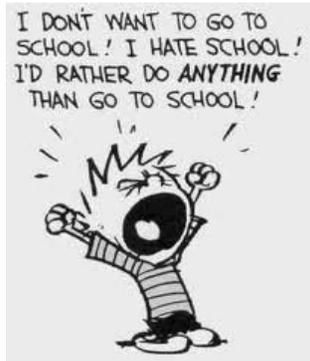
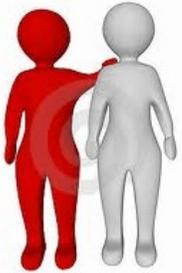
Candidates might be forgiven for feeling like the harassed student

We need positive reinforcement. We need to feel the warmth of a friend who will gently

direct us to a goal.

Support in our quest for success will be rewarding to all.

A good mentor will encourage the candidate to continue and improve.



Like a magnet, we draw from others the attitude we project. When we complain or criticize, others catch that mood and add their own fuel to the fire. When we appreciate and praise, we build a foundation of mutual trust and support.

The result of positive thinking is that all are raised to a better attitude. The glass can always be half-full.

“Think Positive” means just that. Don't look for the negative.



Let be,
let go,
let see,
let flow.

Masons are Builders (by R.W.Bro. McClellan)

We are each on a quest of personal betterment that will last a lifetime. There is nothing greater than seeking greater Light and personal growth, and helping and encouraging others to do the same.

Throughout the degrees we are given many tools symbolizing different avenues of such personal construction. The greatest tool that each one of us has to effect the growth of a Brother Mason is the spoken word and the example that we set.

Let us never forget the power each one of us wields in relation to our Brothers in Masonry.

There is not one of us who totally understands the life journey of another Brother. Let us lead the way by being quick to forgive and very slow to criticize. There may be a brother who does not do the work as well as another. That, in no way, makes him less of a Mason.

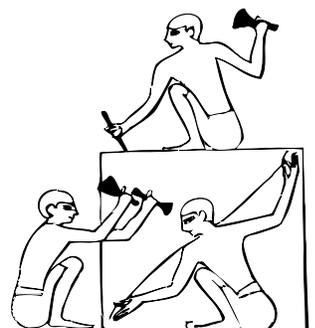
Let us remember to praise, encourage and thank our newer members for what they do...even if it is only for coming out. By far, the most important point is that the Brother has come out and is putting forth the effort. As we know, there are many in each Lodge who have joined and then stopped coming.

Let's not be the Brother who is always looking for a mistake in the ritual so he can smugly say “Ah ha! You missed this!” or “You should have done that!” Let's be the Brother who praises, who looks for what was done right and comments on that.

If there needs to be correction, let it be given with respect, man to man, in privacy and with the fact that your appreciation for the Brother is never in doubt.

Let us each be the brother who aids another in lifting and setting another brick in his personal structure of growth ...

not the brother wielding the wrecking ball of criticism and insult – for anyone can do that... but it takes a true Brother, skilled in the craft, to do the right thing.



What do you Expect?

A beggar was sitting at the gate to a town.
 A man approached and said, "I am thinking of moving here. What are the people like?"
 The beggar replied. "What were the people like in you last town?"
 The man said, "They were friendly and kind. I'm hoping to find the same here."
 The beggar responded, "You will."
 Later, another man came to the gate and spoke to the beggar. "I want to move my business to this town, but am concerned about the people here. What is their nature?"
 The beggar asked, "What were they like where you come from?"
 The man said, "Lazy and sneaky. I couldn't trust them."
 The beggar shook his head. "You will find them the same in this town."

On the Brighter Side . . .

Masonry is a rewarding experience. The men are positive, the meetings are harmonious, and we can find things to do that enrich ourselves and others. Consider what some lodges do to engage their membership.

Caroling

For several seasons, Palmer Lodge members have gone out to sing for older brethren or masonic widows.



Their members can be proud to belong to a lodge that would do that.

2013 SUPER BOWL

On Sunday, February 3, Maple Leaf Lodge is hosting a party at the Hall at 23 Centre Street in St. Catharines. Doors open at 5:00. There will be a big-screen TV, buffet, door prizes. Tickets are available at the door for \$15.00. Further information can be had from Scott Barbacki: 289-271-0512 or sBarbacki@hotmail.com.



On Saturday, Feb. 16, Palmer Lodge will be hosting a chili-tasting at their lodge at 203 Jarvis Street in Fort Erie.

Doors open at 2:00 and the tasting starts at 2:45. The chili is free. All you need is a bowl and spoon which will be provided to you for \$5.00.

This is a contest. Anyone can enter a pot. Voting will be done for the best in several categories. For more information, call John Perham: 905-894-1831 or johhnperham@yahoo.com

The Sankey Lecture Series

Charles Sankey was a prominent mason in our area and the chancellor at Brock University. In his name, a series of masonic lectures has begun.

On Sunday, March 24, the topic will be *Native American Freemasonry: Joseph Brant to the 21st Century*. It will be presented at Brock University at 3:00 p.m. Tickets for admission are free but must be reserved through the Brock Centre for the Arts box office boxoffice@brocku.ca or by calling (905) 688-5550 extension 3257 or 1-866-617-3257

More information and the previous lectures are posted on the website, www.sankeylectures.ca

Official Visits

All masons are encouraged to attend the Official Visits of the District Deputy Grand Master, but especially the Masters and Wardens.

- Feb. 14: Copestone Lodge in Fonthill
- Mar. 11: Merritt Lodge in Port Colborne
- Apr. 10: Clifton Lodge in Niagara Falls

More Light

Masons who want further understanding and appreciation of the masonic story have many paths to take. In each lodge you will find men who will gladly tell you about the Scottish Rite, the York Rite, the Cryptic Rite, and other concordant bodies.

