



The Members' Pathway: *Level 3*

PLAN > Lodge Planning > *Understanding your Lodge*

VALUES QUESTIONNAIRE

People want to join Freemasonry for many reasons. Freemasonry has conducted some research to map out what some of these reasons might be. Often, people have a combination or blend of motives that lead them to want to join. Research has identified a number of sets of these, and it would be helpful to see if any or some of these might also apply to you, or your Lodge.

This document helps you identify the values that are important for their membership. By asking all members to complete this Values Questionnaire, a Lodge Membership Team can collate responses and identify the common motivations of members. Knowing this may be key when seeking to attract new members.

Read through the descriptions and then choose not more than 3 that you recognise as being true of yourself.

These descriptions are in no priority order and you do not need to agree with all the individual statements within each set. The statements are direct quotes from others who have wanted to become Freemasons and when taken together they represent an underlying value or motivation. So if overall you find yourself agreeing with most of the statements within a description, then it probably also applies to you. If none or indeed most don't seem relevant then the description probably does not apply to you.

It would help if you could rank order these on the sheet at the end. As you will see, all are perfectly legitimate and there are therefore no "right answers"! We just want to see if you recognise any of these in yourself. If not could you tell us in your own words what led you to want to become a Freemason.



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1. History and Tradition

Because of the attraction of ritual and tradition appeals to me
Because I love history and I'm fascinated by the history and richness of tradition of Freemasonry
To be part of a movement that has a long history and continuity of traditional values
To socialise and be part of a brotherhood with an ideology I can study and grow from

2. Respect and Status

Because Freemasons seem to have respect and status in Society and that appealed to me and I wanted to be one too

Because I wanted to belong to an organisation that has status and position in society, to share in that status as a result of joining

Because I was attracted by the fact that lots of important people are masons



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3. To be a "Better man"

To become a better man
To provide an opportunity for self-improvement – to be a man of principle and lead a good life
To gain knowledge of myself, to grow as a person
Because I think there is something about myself that Masonry can help me better understand
To be in the company of men who want to be 'better', inspires me to want to be a 'better' man
To share in the company of people committed to working to a common goal and ultimately becoming a better person both spiritually and mentally
Because it would give me an opportunity to express the more responsible side of myself
To join a society of men concerned with principles and spiritual values
To belong to something that is a force for good and seeks to preserve the values of society
To be part of an organisation that stands for the values I believe in
To be part of something that makes a difference in the world

4. Pure curiosity

Out of sheer curiosity

5. Mystic interest

Because I had a pre-existing interest in history, symbolism, mythology and initiation rites; I wanted to join an organisation that still has many of those attributes
Because I wanted to research symbolism and symbols and their use to provoke my thinking about values/philosophical issues; to join as part of a personal progression 'spiritually'
Because I am fascinated by religion, philosophy, natural sciences, the opportunity to explore and research the underlying values and lessons behind the ritual
Because I have done a lot of research into Masonry and I am fascinated by it
Through a sense of intrigue, to explore the unknown. I like mysteries



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6. Escape!

Because it would give me an opportunity to escape from day to day pressures, to achieve a sense of sanctuary from the clutter of everyday life

7. Family connection

To be part of something with my father where I could establish a common interest and an adult friendship with him
Because my father suggested I join as it would make me a better man/explore myself as a person
Because my father is a mason and I wanted to find out why it was so important to him
Because my father suggested I join as I would meet a lot of great people
Because there is a long history of freemasonry in my family
Because my grandfather/uncle/father in law was a mason and when I was young I really respected him and wanted to be like him
To be part of an organisation that someone important to me belongs to

8. Because of a friend

Because a friend is a Mason and said I would enjoy it
Just because someone invited me to join

9. Sociable altruism

To be able to join something and share a common interest with people regardless of social or ethnic background
To be part of something that has a strong charitable record and that also has 'inner substance' beyond just charity
Because I was looking for community, to belong to something where I can give more than I do now
Because I wanted to meet new people from a wide age range, to make friends with people of generations that I would not normally socialise with
Because it offered something to hold on to, a values framework but free from a formal religious dogma



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Choose not more than 3 from the above descriptions and rank their headings on the table below

<i>Reason for wanting to become a Mason</i>	<i>rank</i>
History and Tradition	
Respect and Status	
To be a "Better man"	
Pure curiosity	
Mystic interest	
Escape!	
Family connection	
Because of a friend	
Sociable altruism	

Other reason

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Instructions for completing the ranking chart for all Lodge members

On the chart below, place the name or initials of each member in the quadrant of the circle that matches their highest ranked value. If someone has ranked the value, "Better man" as their highest, identify which of the other values in quadrants 1 & 2 he has scored highest. Then place his name in the quadrant matching that value.

When complete you will have a cluster of names. The cluster may be concentrated mainly in one or two of the quadrants. The quadrant with most names in, particularly if it represents the majority of members, is therefore likely to show the dominant culture, or set of values, for the Lodge.

If most of the names are in quadrant 1 (comprising the "Better man", "Mystic" and "Pure Curiosity" values) then the Lodge is probably one in which most members seek to explore and learn about the Craft as a way of satisfying an underlying curiosity, and perhaps to grow and develop as a man as a consequence of the understanding obtained.

If most of the names are in quadrant 2 (comprising the "Better man" and "Sociable altruism" values) then the Lodge is probably one in which members want to feel that they are part of an organisation that is charitable and has an impact on society, built on a value system they shared with like minded people.

If most of the names are in quadrant 3 (comprising the "History & Tradition" and "Family Connection" values) then the Lodge is probably one in which members want to feel that they are part of an organisation that has a sense of continuity, that safeguards an important set of values or principles and is made up of people with an intrinsic interest in history and tradition. It may also represent an opportunity to continue in a fraternity that has a tradition within the family. The Lodge is also likely to strongly value its ritual.

If most of the names are in quadrant 4 (comprising the "Escape!" and "Because of a Friend" values) then the lodge is probably one in which members want to feel that they are part of Lodge that is a refuge from the stresses of their normal work environment and where they can just enjoy being with friends in a sociable and friendly male only environment.

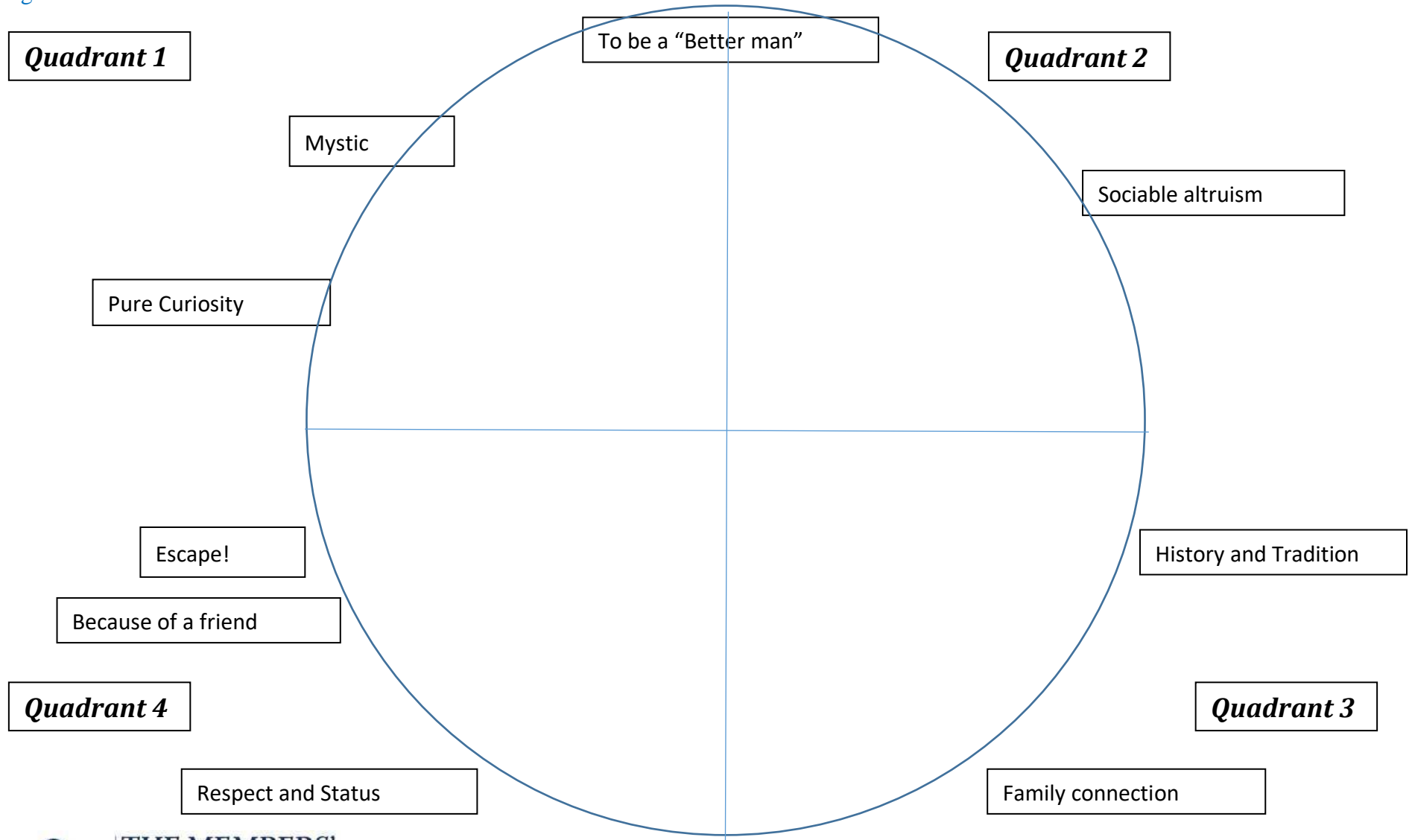
Quadrant 4 also includes the "Respect & Status" value. Members who score highest on this tend to have a primary desire to be associated with a organisation that brings them a feeling of being part of an "exclusive club".



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Figure 2





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