

1/27/2012

Brothers and Sisters,

I took the family on vacation when my 4 children were young. We really did not have a plan so we just went west, to go wherever the road took us and to do whatever came our way. This plan or should I say lack thereof, caused some stress to my boys who were 14, 11 & 9, but my daughter of 4 and my wife Janie didn't really care as long as we were leaving town. To me it didn't matter where we went as long as we had some fun. We drove our station wagon out of Denver about 12 noon and went up through Boulder. As we left Boulder to go to Estes Park I saw a go cart track so I pulled in. **Nothing relieves stress in boys like driving dirty, smoky go carts for an hour at the beginning of a family vacation that you are not really sure you want to take.** In Estes Park we stayed in the Stanley Hotel, because it had a great pool and tennis courts. The next day we walked through the town and all the kids bought hats that looked like a raccoon, a puppy, a moose and a duck. They all had sun glasses and little corn cob pipes. Well that was a great 7 day vacation that went through Vernal Utah and eventually Yellowstone Park.

I have always thought that life, for most of us, is like that walk down Main Street in Estes Park, except that we all wear multiple hats and multiple costumes based on the roles we play in life. In many of the degrees of Masonry costumes and hats are worn, which add to the flavor of the degree. **For those of you in the Consistory, years ago I was the guy who sat up in the grave in the middle of the grave yard. What costumes do you wear? How many hats do you wear now and what hats have you worn in the past?** Granted we call them uniforms not costumes and stations in life or careers not hats, but never the less we play the part. **In the 3rd section of the 3rd degree we are taught that life is short and that "The younger are crowing the next older off the stage of action, as if each were anxious to display his part in the ever strange and changeful drama of life."**

Sometimes changing hats can be difficult. Many of you know that I make my living as a Real Estate and Mortgage Broker. In addition to that for the last 10 years I have been preaching and teaching the Bible. Also on Saturday mornings for the last 20 years I have been teaching gymnastics to little boys 5 – 12 yrs old. Yet I am also a husband, a father and a grandfather. **So who am I? Who are you?** For a long time it was hard for me to change hats from a businessman to a husband & father. Meaning I should not be talking about low interest rates to my wife and kids. And then there is Church and Faith, Masons and Eastern Star which can complicate all this even more. **Would you describe yourself as a Mason disguised as a mechanic and husband? Or are you Jewish Mason disguised as a Lawyer? How about an Eastern Star Christian disguised as a nurse, teacher, wife or mother? How would you describe yourself and what words would you use?**

The foundation of my faith and Masonic principles teach me to live a godly, honest, ethical and moral life. So with that mantle it is easy for me now to know who I am no matter what role I play. **Today I would say I am a Christian Mason disguised as a husband, father, friend, Pastor, Realtor or coach, but first and foremost I am a Christian Mason.** When you build your life on the solid foundation of Faith and on the lessons of Masonic principles, then it is easy to just be yourself. **And no matter what role you play, you can be the Masterpiece God intended you to be. It will truly make you a better husband, wife, friend and worker!**

If you are in Denver you are invited to the Robert Russell Eastern Star Masonic Chapel each Sunday evening at 6:30 PM to enjoy the music, worship, fellowship and refreshments.

Don't forget on March 4th at 1:00 pm we will gather in all our lodges and Tebow. Grand Master John Egan III has given his blessing to this event. Let's do it for the good of the order.

I ask you to forward this to the Masonic family around the world and to organize your members.

I pray God will bless you and yours,

Rev. Steve Schroeder PM

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