



Every Master Mason is a York Rite Mason.

The York Rite of Freemasonry is the marrying of four separate, distinct and complimentary Masonic Bodies: Symbolic Lodges of Master Masons, Chapters of Royal Arch Masons, Councils of Royal and Select Masters and Commanderies of Knights Templar. The importance and priority of these Bodies is, and must always be, in that order.

Historically, the Royal Arch Degree was worked in Symbolic Lodges and considered the pinnacle of Freemasonry. In many parts of the world a man isn't fully considered a Mason until he has been exalted a Royal Arch Mason. As a Companion of the Holy Royal Arch, you no longer need be satisfied with a substitute. Upon being exalted to the Most Sublime Degree of Ancient Craft Masonry, you will receive the Master's Word.

Cryptic Masonry, as practiced in Councils of Royal and Select Masters, brings Continuing Masonic Light beyond that received in the first three Degrees. Through the use of the Hiram Legend, Royal and Select Masters learn why, how and where the Master's Word was deposited and preserved for future generations.

Every Christian Freemason should be a Knight Templar. Templary conveys the values and precepts of our institution in the context of Christian Chivalry. The Order harkens to the days when the Knights Templar protected and defended the Holy Land. The Commandery Orders culminate with the Order of the Temple, which is one of the most impressive and beautiful Orders in all of Freemasonry.

The Master Mason may progress through these Degrees and Orders as serves his needs and desires. There are no requirements to advance. After receiving this Continuing Light in Masonry, most do. Because, every Master Mason is already a York Rite Mason.