

211-3 THE Y'S MEN'S INDUCTION CEREMONY

IT MEANS SOMETHING TO BE A Y'S MAN (PART I)

It means something to be a Y's Man. It means five things at least. First it means to be an idealist - one whose conduct is motivated by an idealism expressing itself in sacrificial altruism.

Various organizations have various membership requirements. Some require business prominence, some social standing, some intellectual attainment, some athletic prowess, and so on. But, we know of none that makes the basis of membership **Unselfishness of Character** - except the Y's Men!

One who seeks increased business, social, intellectual or athletic opportunities, will find them in greater abundance in luncheon clubs, lodges, study groups, golf clubs, and a host of other worthy organizations. With such as these the Y's Men are never in competition.

One who seeks to ally himself with young, active idealists in order to increase his effectiveness in serving his fellow men - one who asks in return nothing but the rarest fellowship bound to permeate a group founded on unselfishness of character - will find his richest opportunities with the Y's Men's Club.

TO BE LOYAL TO THE YMCA (PART 2)

Second. To be a Y's Man means to be loyal to the Young Men's Christian Association. Y's Men understand the Y is not a building, gymnasium or dormitory, any more than a dining room is the Y's Men's Club. Nor is the Y an institution promoted by professional directors. It is what its name implies, an association, a union of persons acting together for a common purpose. The persons are young men who strive to practice the teachings of Christ. You and I and our fellow members, we are the Y. The professionals are trained specialists whom we retain to supervise our work, and the building is an instrument to facilitate the accomplishment of our common aims.

Next to the church the Y is the greatest character builder in the world, placing emphasis on the young people of today, the citizens of tomorrow. Next to the day schools and colleges it is one of the greatest educational factors and is a world leader in physical education and development. It has few rivals in breaking down the vicious barriers erected by diverse creeds, castes and cultures throughout the world. It is a leading foe of international and inter-racial injustice, and thus a powerful factor for world peace, always extolling, never disparaging true patriotism.

The central purpose of the Y's Men is to serve by diligent, active, personal and united effort in carrying forward every phase of the program of the Young Men's Christian Association.

Third. To be a Y's Man means to be **World Minded**. In many cities of Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and the Americas there are Y's Men's Clubs, all imbued with the same idealism, all working quietly and earnestly for the same objectives, one of which is "To achieve Christ's ideal of international and inter-racial justice."

We hold that "The measure of a man is the breadth of his horizon." One who is indifferent to international or inter-racial injustice, who is so immersed in local affairs he is not interested in other lands or peoples, whose horizon is limited by the narrow confines of his own domain - such a man is too small; he does not measure up to the standard of the Y's Man, whose horizon is world-wide.

TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE DUTY THAT ACCOMPANIES EVERY RIGHT (PART 4)

Fourth. To be a Y's Man means "To acknowledge the duty that accompanies every right." This motto was adopted by the Y's Men because of the tendency of most people to insist upon full enjoyment of all their rights while remaining oblivious to the corresponding duties giving validity to such rights.

Just as the green light giving right of way to traffic on a one way street must have a corresponding red light to warn traffic on the cross-street of its duty to stop, so every right we enjoy is founded upon a corresponding duty.

Our motto is a constant challenge to us to pay less heed to the enforcement of our rights, and more to the discovery and discharge of their corresponding duties - to transfer the emphasis from rights to duties.

TO BE ENTHUSIASTICALLY ACTIVE (PART 5)

Fifth. To be a Y's Man means to be **Enthusiastically Active**. Our constitution says there shall be but one class of members - active. The fellow who absorbs his fill of food, fun and information, and is **too busy** to give time and energy to the serious work of the club, is distinctly out of place among the Y's Men. **Enthusiasm** is derived from the Greek 'en' meaning 'in' and 'Theos' meaning 'God'. An enthusiast was a man with God in him. The enthusiastic activity of the Y's Men does not mean doing things noisily; it means a continuously inspired activity. A Y's Man is active with God in him.

Varily, it means something to be a Y's Man; to be an idealist, to be loyal to the Y, to be world minded, to emphasize not rights but duties, to be enthusiastically active. If this is the basis upon which you seek your membership you will so signify by raising your hand and answering in the affirmative, thereby pledging your devotion to the ideals and purposes of the club.

(Pause for reply)

Having made this public avowal you are now entitled to wear the emblem of the Y's Men. (Hand lapel button to each candidate; if installing a club have an emblem on the wall, and direct attention to it). You will observe the emblem consists first of a triangle, the symbol long employed by the Y to denote its three-fold program of spirit, mind and body building. In the upper border of the triangle appears the word "**international**" indicative of the scope of our brotherhood and the breadth of our purposes. Within the triangle you see a golden star shedding rays of light on the name "**Y's Men's Club**". This star symbolizes the **Star of Bethlehem** which nineteen centuries ago guided the Three Wise Men of the East to the Christ Child. Even as the Star of Bethlehem served as a guide to the Wise Men of the East, so may the golden star in this emblem, representing also the ideals of our club, serve as a constant guide to the Y's Men of today and lead them to a true realization of the nobility of unselfish service.

I am grateful to pronounce you Y's Men - which is, being interpreted, Men (and Women) of and for the Y - and I rejoice to extend to you on behalf of all Y's Men everywhere the handclasp of Y's fellowship.

