

THE TWELVE TRADITIONS

It has been beneficial to have guidelines in recovery to ensure the groups are able to continue to perform the function for which they were intended. The following traditions are similar in principle to those which have proved invaluable to many Twelve-Step groups:

1. The welfare of the group is of primary importance, since personal recovery depends on group unity.
2. For our groups there is but one authority, Jesus Christ, as He lovingly expresses Himself through the Scriptures and as the Holy Spirit leads the group. Our leaders are but caretakers of God's will. They do not govern.
3. The only requirement for membership is the desire to allow the Lord to set us free from our life controlling problems and seek greater knowledge of His will and purpose in our lives.
4. Groups shall remain autonomous, except in matters affecting the ministry as a whole.
5. The groups have but one primary purpose, to carry the message to those who still suffer and need Jesus' redeeming love, forgiveness, salvation, freedom and healing.
6. The groups should never endorse finance or lend its name to any outside enterprise, least problems of money, prestige or prosperity divert us from our primary purpose.
7. Groups should be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
8. Groups should remain forever non-professional, although we may hire special workers.
9. Groups ought never to be organized, though we may create service boards, responsible directly to those they serve.
10. Groups have no opinions on outside issues; hence our name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion, we need always to maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and television.
12. Anonymity (Unconditional love) is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

(Adapted from: Christians Under Construction)