



**Christ-Centered  
12 Traditions**

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## Recovery In Christ Ministries

Recovery In Christ Ministries, Inc. (R.I.C.) began informally in 1985 when a handful of Christians who were attending traditional Twelve-Step groups met for coffee after a regular meeting. The Lord blessed that simple gathering with His presence in a special way. Genuine Christian fellowship and heartfelt prayer took place.



There was a shared desire to have a regular meeting where recovering people could freely talk about Jesus and discuss the Bible. Within a few weeks, the first meeting was scheduled. Only a couple of people attended — yet ministry and healing still took place. Since that humble beginning, hundreds of lives have been touched through these gatherings.

In June of 1990, Recovery In Christ Ministries, Inc. was formally incorporated as a non-profit organization in the state of Florida and approved by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt ministry.

### *Mission Statement*

*Recovery In Christ Ministries exists to communicate the hope of recovery found in Jesus Christ, helping individuals break free from chemical dependency, codependency, other addictions, and the wounds of dysfunctional family systems.*

We are committed to:

- **Leading people into a personal and saving relationship with Jesus Christ** and encouraging them to grow within a Christian church of their choice.
- **Equipping churches to establish Christ-centered recovery support groups** and fostering cooperation among recovery ministries.
- **Publishing and distributing biblical recovery materials** to individuals, leaders, and groups.
- **Providing Christ-centered, biblically based counseling** to those who are hurting.
- **Training lay Christians and ministry leaders** to effectively help those who are suffering.

Our mission is to be an instrument of God's healing, peace, and righteousness — offering hope, restoration, and freedom through the transforming power of Jesus Christ.

*Please pray for this ministry — that the Lord directs all of its activities and uses it as an instrument of His healing, His peace, and His righteousness.*

**Core Values** - These core values express the heart of our ministry and guide everything we do. They reflect our commitment to Christ, to truth, and to the healing of those who are hurting.

**1. Christ at the Center** - Jesus Christ is the foundation of all recovery. We believe true healing, freedom, and transformation come through a personal relationship with Him.

**2. The Authority of Scripture** - God's Word is our guide for life, recovery, and spiritual growth. Every principle we teach is rooted in Scripture.

**3. Honesty and Transparency** - Healing begins with truth. We value authenticity, confession, and the courage to face our struggles with humility and grace.

**4. Love Without Judgment** - We welcome all who are hurting. We offer acceptance, compassion, and encouragement — never condemnation.

**5. Confidentiality and Safety** - A safe environment is essential for recovery. What is shared in the group stays in the group. Every person deserves protection and respect.

**6. Community and Accountability** - We grow best together. Recovery is strengthened through fellowship, shared experience, and mutual support within the Body of Christ.

**7. The Power of the Holy Spirit** - We rely on the Holy Spirit to lead, convict, comfort, and transform. He is the true Counselor and the Leader of every meeting.

**8. Service and Outreach** - We freely share the hope we have received. Our mission is to reach the hurting, disciple believers, and equip churches to minister effectively.

**9. Humility and Teachability** - We remain open to correction, growth, and the ongoing work of God in our lives. No one has all the answers — we walk this journey together.

**10. Integrity and Stewardship** - We honor God by handling all ministry responsibilities with excellence, honesty, and accountability.

**Vision Statement** - *To see individuals, families, and churches transformed by the healing power of Jesus Christ as they embrace Christ-centered recovery, walk in truth, and grow into healthy, Spirit-led communities of faith.*

We envision:

- People set free from addiction, trauma, and life-controlling issues through the power of Christ
- Churches equipped to minister effectively to the still suffering
- Recovery groups rooted in Scripture, love, and the Holy Spirit
- A global network of believers reaching out to a broken world with hope, compassion, and truth
- Communities where transparency, accountability, and grace flourish
- A movement of disciples who carry the message of recovery into every sphere of life

Our vision is simple: **Jesus restores lives — and we want the world to know it.**

## Introduction to Recovery In Christ Ministries

Recovery In Christ Ministries began with something simple — a few believers gathering after a Twelve Step meeting to talk about Jesus, pray together, and share their struggles with honesty and hope. There were no plans, no programs, and no expectations. Yet the Lord met them there. In that small circle of hurting people, Christ's presence brought comfort, healing, and the beginnings of a ministry that would reach far beyond anything they imagined.

From that humble beginning in 1985, Recovery In Christ Ministries has grown into a Christ-centered outreach dedicated to helping individuals, families, and churches experience the transforming power of Jesus Christ. We believe that recovery is not merely about breaking destructive patterns — it is about discovering the love of God, walking in truth, and becoming the people He created us to be. Healing happens where Christ is welcomed, where grace is practiced, and where broken people gather with open hearts.

These resources were created to support that sacred work. Whether you are reading this as someone seeking personal healing, as a leader guiding others, or as a believer wanting to grow in Christ, we welcome you. Each book in this series serves a unique purpose, yet all three share the same foundation: Jesus Christ at the center, Scripture as our guide, and the Holy Spirit as our Counselor.

**The RIC Workbook** (Reaching Out to a Hurting World) helps individuals explore biblical principles of recovery and apply them to daily life. **The Leadership Guide** equips leaders to shepherd Christ-centered recovery groups with wisdom, structure, and grace. **The Guide to Christ-Centered Traditions** strengthens the unity, safety, and spiritual health of groups by grounding them in principles that protect the heart of recovery.

Together, these resources form a unified pathway — a way for individuals and communities to grow in honesty, humility, accountability, and love. They are not meant to instruct from above, but to walk beside you. We write as fellow travelers, fellow strugglers, and fellow recipients of God's mercy.

Our prayer is simple: that through these pages, Jesus will draw you closer to Himself, restore what has been broken, deepen your fellowship with others, and lead you into the freedom only He can give. May the Lord bless your journey, strengthen your faith, and use your life as a testimony of His healing power.

Sincerely,

Recovery In Christ Ministries

## How to Use These Resources Together

Recovery is a journey best walked with Christ at the center and with others by our side. The resources in this ministry series were created to work together as a unified pathway — supporting individuals, leaders, and groups as they grow in healing, truth, and spiritual maturity.

Each book serves a unique purpose, yet all three share the same foundation: Jesus Christ as our Healer, Scripture as our guide, and the Holy Spirit as our Counselor. Used together, they provide a balanced and comprehensive approach to Christ-centered recovery.

**The ‘Reaching Out to a Hurting World’ (RIC Workbook)** This book is designed for personal growth, group discussion, and ongoing spiritual formation. It explores key topics related to addiction, trauma, codependency, emotional health, and discipleship. Individuals can use it privately, and groups can use it as a weekly guide for reflection, sharing, and prayer.

**The Leadership Guide** This guide equips leaders, facilitators, and pastors to shepherd Christ-centered recovery groups with clarity, structure, and grace. It offers practical tools for leading meetings, supporting participants, and cultivating a safe, Spirit-led environment where healing can take place.

**The Guide to Christ-Centered Traditions** This devotional resource helps groups stay healthy, unified, and grounded in biblical principles. The Twelve Traditions provide a spiritual framework that protects the heart of recovery, strengthens community, and keeps Christ at the center of group life.

**Using the Resources Together** You may use these books individually or as a complete set. Many groups read from the Workbook during meetings, use the Leadership Guide for structure and support, and draw from the Traditions Guide to maintain unity and spiritual focus. Individuals may use the Workbook for personal growth while leaders use the other two resources to guide and strengthen their ministry.

However you choose to use them, our prayer is that these tools will help you grow in Christ, deepen your relationships with others, and experience the freedom and restoration that only Jesus can bring.

## Table of Contents

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <i>Recovery In Christ Ministries</i> .....  | <i>i</i>   |
| <i>Core Values</i> .....  | <i>ii</i>  |
| <i>Vision Statement</i> .....   | <i>ii</i>  |
| <i>Introduction to Recovery In Christ Ministries</i> .....  | <i>iii</i> |
| <i>How to Use These Resources Together</i> .....  | <i>iv</i>  |
| <b>Introduction to The 12 Traditions</b> .....  | <b>1</b>   |
| <b>Tradition One</b> .....  | <b>2</b>   |
| <i>“The welfare of the group is of primary importance, since personal recovery depends on group unity.”</i> .....   | 2          |
| <b>Tradition Two</b> .....  | <b>3</b>   |
| <i>“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.”</i> ..... | 3          |
| <b>Tradition Three</b> .....  | <b>4</b>   |
| <i>“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.”</i> .....                                     | 4          |
| <b>Tradition Four</b> .....   | <b>5</b>   |
| <i>“Groups shall remain autonomous, except in matters affecting the ministry as a whole.”</i> .....   | 5          |
| <b>Tradition Five</b> .....   | <b>6</b>   |
| <i>“The groups have but one primary purpose: to carry the message to those who still suffer and are in need of Jesus’ redeeming love, forgiveness, salvation, freedom, and healing.”</i> .....  | 6          |
| <b>Tradition Six</b> .....  | <b>7</b>   |
| <i>“The groups should never endorse, finance, or lend their name to any outside enterprise, lest problems of money, prestige, or prosperity divert us from our primary purpose.”</i> .....  | 7          |
| <b>Tradition Seven</b> .....  | <b>8</b>   |
| <i>“Groups should be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.”</i> .....   | 8          |
| <b>Tradition Eight</b> .....  | <b>9</b>   |
| <i>“Groups should remain forever non-professional, although we may hire special workers.”</i> .....   | 9          |
| <b>Tradition Nine</b> .....   | <b>10</b>  |
| <i>“Groups ought never to be organized, though we may create service boards responsible directly to those they serve.”</i> .....  | 10         |
| <b>Tradition Ten</b> .....  | <b>11</b>  |
| <i>“Groups have no opinions on outside issues; hence our name ought never be drawn into public controversy.”</i> .....  | 11         |
| <b>Tradition Eleven</b> .....   | <b>12</b>  |
| <i>“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.”</i> .....  | 12         |
| <b>Tradition Twelve</b> .....   | <b>13</b>  |
| <i>“Anonymity (unconditional love) is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.”</i> .....  | 13         |
| <b>Summary - Unconditional Love</b> .....   | <b>14</b>  |
| <i>“The greatest of these is love.” (1 Corinthians 13:13)</i> .....   | 14         |

## Introduction to The 12 Traditions

### Recovery In Christ Ministries – Reaching Out To A Hurting World

We at Recovery In Christ Ministries believe that healing happens where Christ is welcomed, where grace is practiced, and where broken people gather with open hearts. We have seen again and again that Jesus meets people in their deepest places of pain, and He brings hope where despair once lived. This devotional on the Twelve Christ-Centered Traditions was created to support that sacred work — to help groups stay spiritually healthy, unified, and rooted in the love of Christ.

These pages are not meant to instruct from above, but to walk beside you. We write as fellow travelers, fellow strugglers, and fellow recipients of God's mercy. Everything we offer here is given with the prayer that Jesus Himself will speak through it — that His voice will be clearer than ours, His wisdom deeper than ours, and His love stronger than anything we could express on our own.

The Twelve Traditions are more than guidelines for group life. They are a spiritual framework that protects the heart of recovery. They help us stay humble, keep Christ at the center, and create a safe place where anyone seeking freedom can encounter His healing presence. When we live these Traditions together, we become a community shaped not by personalities, but by grace; not by opinion, but by Scripture; not by human strength, but by the Spirit of God.

If you are using this Guide to Christ-centered Traditions in a support group, we rejoice with you. If you are reading it alone, we stand with you. And if you are leading others, we pray that Christ will give you wisdom, gentleness, and courage. We also want you to know that our companion 12 Step workbook and leadership guide are available free to download on our website:

<https://recoveryinchrist.org>

Our hope is simple: that through these pages, Jesus will draw you closer to Himself, strengthen your recovery, deepen your unity with others, and remind you that you are never alone. We are honored to walk this journey with you, and we trust the Holy Spirit to use these Traditions to bring healing, clarity, and freedom — one heart, one group at a time.

Sincerely,

*Tommy Tieche*

**Tommy Tieche**

Director, Recovery In Christ Ministries, Inc.

## Tradition One

**“The welfare of the group is of primary importance, since personal recovery depends on group unity.”**

Christian recovery is never meant to be a solo journey. God designed His people to grow, heal, and persevere in community, not isolation. Tradition One reminds us that the strength of the group directly affects the strength of each individual within it. When the group is healthy, safe, and unified, people flourish. When the group is divided or chaotic, recovery becomes unstable and fragile.

Scripture teaches this principle clearly:

*“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!”* (Psalm 133:1)

Unity is not simply agreement — it is a shared commitment to love one another, protect one another, and pursue Christ together. In recovery, unity means we show up for each other, we listen without judgment, and we honor the boundaries and format that keep the meeting safe.

Paul describes the Church as a body, where each part depends on the others: *“If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.”* (1 Corinthians 12:26)

This is the heartbeat of Tradition One. When someone in the group is hurting, the whole group feels it. When someone celebrates a milestone, the whole group rejoices. We are not independent; we are interdependent.

Unity also requires humility. Paul urges believers to *“make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”* (Ephesians 4:3)

Unity doesn’t happen by accident — it is something we protect intentionally. That means avoiding gossip, refusing to dominate conversations, honoring confidentiality, and remembering that the group exists for everyone’s recovery, not just our own.

**In practical terms, Tradition One means:**

- We protect the unity and safety of the group
- We show up with humility, grace, and respect
- We avoid behaviors that divide or distract
- We remember that the group’s health strengthens everyone’s recovery
- We place Christ — not ego — at the center

**Closing Reflection:** Tradition One calls us to remember that our recovery is strengthened when we help protect the unity of the group. When we choose love over ego, service over self, and Christ over conflict, we become a living testimony of God’s grace — a community where broken people can find hope, healing, and freedom.

## Tradition Two

**“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.”**

Tradition Two reminds us that Christian recovery is not built on human authority, personality, or leadership style — it is built on the Lordship of Jesus Christ. He alone is the Head of the Church, and He alone has the wisdom, compassion, and power to guide a recovery group toward healing and unity.

Scripture makes this clear: *“And He is the head of the body, the church.”* (Colossians 1:18)

When Christ is recognized as the true Leader, the group remains spiritually healthy. When a person becomes the center, the group becomes fragile, divided, or personality-driven. Tradition Two protects us from that drift by reminding us that leaders are not rulers — they are servants.

God's Word is our compass: *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”* (Psalm 119:105)

A Christ-centered leader does not control the group or impose personal opinions. Instead, they create space for God to work, protect the meeting's purpose, and help maintain an atmosphere where healing can happen. Their role is stewardship, not ownership.

Jesus modeled this perfectly: *“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.”* (Matthew 20:26)

Leadership in recovery is not about authority — it is about humility, listening, and pointing people back to Christ. When leaders serve with gentleness and integrity, the Holy Spirit is free to guide the group into truth, unity, and freedom.

And where the Spirit leads, healing follows: *“Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”* (2 Corinthians 3:17)

**In practical terms, Tradition Two means:**

- We recognize Jesus Christ as the true Leader of every meeting
- We allow Scripture and the Holy Spirit to guide our decisions
- We choose leaders who serve rather than control
- We avoid elevating personalities or relying on human authority
- We seek God's will together with humility and unity

**Closing Reflection:** Tradition Two calls us to remember that Christ alone is the foundation of our recovery. When we surrender leadership to Him, our groups become places of safety, clarity, and grace. As we follow His example of servant-hearted love, we create an environment where the Holy Spirit can move freely — bringing healing, unity, and transformation to all who gather.

## Tradition Three

**“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.”**

Tradition Three is one of the most grace-filled principles in Christian recovery. It reminds us that the doors of healing must remain wide open — not for the perfect, not for the polished, not for those who “have it together,” but for anyone who desires freedom. A person may arrive broken, angry, confused, ashamed, or unsure of what they believe. None of that disqualifies them. If they desire freedom, they belong.

Jesus Himself set this tone:

*“All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.”* (John 6:37) and *“Let anyone who is thirsty come to Me and drink.”* — John 7:37

This Tradition protects recovery groups from becoming exclusive, judgmental, or spiritually elitist. It keeps the focus on Christ’s invitation rather than human standards. We are not gatekeepers — we are fellow travelers pointing others toward the One who heals.

God draws near to those who are hurting:

*“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”* (Psalm 34:18)

Tradition Three reminds us that recovery is not about perfection — it is about willingness. A desire for freedom is the spark the Holy Spirit can breathe on. It is the open door through which grace enters. Our job is not to measure someone’s readiness, sincerity, or spiritual maturity. Our job is to welcome them as Christ welcomed us.

When we honor this Tradition, we create a safe place where honesty is possible, where shame loses its grip, and where people can begin to believe that freedom is truly available in Christ.

**In practical terms, Tradition Three means:**

- We welcome anyone who desires freedom in Christ
- We do not judge or exclude based on past or present struggles
- We create a safe place for honesty and vulnerability
- We trust Jesus to do the transforming work
- We remember that grace opens the door — not performance

**Closing Reflection:** Tradition Three calls us to embody the radical welcome of Jesus. When we open our hearts and our groups to anyone seeking freedom, we reflect the heart of Christ Himself. In that atmosphere of grace, people discover that they are not alone, that hope is real, and that the journey toward healing is possible — one honest step at a time.

## Tradition Four

**“Groups shall remain autonomous, except in matters affecting the ministry as a whole.”**

Tradition Four honors the beautiful diversity within Christian recovery. Every group has its own personality, rhythm, and culture — and that is a strength, not a weakness. Autonomy allows each group to respond to the needs of its members, to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, and to express recovery in a way that fits its unique setting.

*“Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” — Philippians 2:4*

But autonomy is not independence. Scripture reminds us that we are one body in Christ, connected and interdependent:

*“So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” (Romans 12:5)*

This means groups are free to make decisions about their format, structure, and style — as long as those decisions do not harm other groups or the ministry as a whole. Autonomy gives room for creativity, but unity keeps us grounded in Christ.

Paul encourages believers to walk in humility and gentleness:

*“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.” (Ephesians 4:2)*

Tradition Four protects the ministry from confusion, division, and inconsistency. It ensures that no group becomes isolated or begins teaching something contrary to Scripture or the heart of Recovery In Christ. At the same time, it empowers groups to adapt, grow, and serve their communities in ways that are meaningful and effective.

When autonomy and unity work together, the ministry becomes both flexible and strong — able to meet people where they are while staying anchored in Christ.

**In practical terms, Tradition Four means:**

- We honor each group’s unique expression of recovery
- We avoid decisions that harm other groups or the ministry
- We seek unity while respecting diversity
- We remember that Christ is the center of every group
- We support one another as members of one body

**Closing Reflection:** Tradition Four invites us to embrace both freedom and responsibility. As groups follow the Holy Spirit’s leading, they bring fresh expressions of Christ’s love into their communities. Yet as we remain connected to one another, we protect the unity and integrity of the ministry. When autonomy and unity walk hand in hand, recovery becomes a living testimony of God’s wisdom, grace, and order.

## Tradition Five

**“The groups have but one primary purpose: to carry the message to those who still suffer and are in need of Jesus’ redeeming love, forgiveness, salvation, freedom, and healing.”**

Tradition Five brings us back to the heartbeat of Christian recovery: carrying the message of hope in Christ to those who are hurting. Recovery groups can easily drift into debate, socializing, or personal agendas, but this Tradition calls us to stay focused on the mission Jesus gave us — to bring His healing to the broken, the weary, and the lost.

Jesus declared His mission clearly:

*“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.” — Mark 16:15*

*“He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.” (Isaiah 61:1)*

This is the message we carry. Not self-help. Not human wisdom. Not moral improvement. We carry the message of Christ — His power, His grace, His forgiveness, His ability to transform lives from the inside out.

When a group keeps this purpose at the center, everything else falls into place. Meetings stay focused. Sharing remains meaningful. The atmosphere becomes one of compassion, truth, and hope. People who walk in burdened leave encouraged. Those who feel alone discover community. Those who feel hopeless begin to believe that change is possible.

Paul reminds us of the simplicity and power of the gospel:

*“For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.” (1 Corinthians 2:2)*

Tradition Five protects us from distractions — from turning recovery into a social club, a debate forum, or a place for personal agendas. It keeps the message clear and the mission strong.

**In practical terms, Tradition Five means:**

- We focus on sharing Christ’s healing power
- We avoid distractions that dilute the message
- We support the suffering with compassion and truth
- We trust God to bring freedom and transformation
- We remember that our purpose is to carry hope, not fix people

**Closing Reflection:** Tradition Five calls us to stay centered on the mission Jesus gave us. When we carry His message with humility and love, we become instruments of His healing. As we point others to Christ — the true source of freedom — we participate in the sacred work of restoring lives, renewing hope, and shining light into places of deep darkness.

## Tradition Six

**“The groups should never endorse, finance, or lend their name to any outside enterprise, lest problems of money, prestige, or prosperity divert us from our primary purpose.”**

Tradition Six protects the ministry from distractions, entanglements, and influences that can quietly pull a group away from its true mission. When a recovery group becomes tied to outside causes, organizations, or agendas — even good ones — the message of Christ can become diluted, distorted, or overshadowed.

Jesus warned about divided loyalty:

*“No one can serve two masters.” (Matthew 6:24)*

This Tradition reminds us that our purpose is singular: to carry the message of Christ’s healing power. When a group endorses outside enterprises, it risks confusing that purpose. People may begin to associate the ministry with political causes, social movements, businesses, or personalities rather than with Jesus Himself.

Paul emphasized the importance of staying focused: *“For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.”* (1 Corinthians 2:2)

Tradition Six keeps the ministry free from conflicts of interest. It protects groups from being pressured, influenced, or swayed by outside expectations. It also prevents the Recovery In Christ name from being used in ways that could harm the ministry’s reputation or mission.

When we avoid endorsements and outside entanglements, we preserve the clarity, purity, and simplicity of the gospel message. Our meetings remain safe places where the focus is Christ alone — not money, property, prestige, or outside agendas.

**In practical terms, Tradition Six means:**

- We avoid endorsing outside causes or organizations
- We keep Christ as the sole focus of our message
- We protect the ministry from conflicts of interest
- We guard against distractions rooted in money, property, or prestige
- We maintain the integrity and clarity of our mission

**Closing Reflection:** Tradition Six calls us to guard the purity of our purpose. When we refuse to attach the ministry to outside enterprises, we keep the message of Christ front and center. In that simplicity, people encounter the freedom, healing, and hope that only Jesus can give. By staying focused on Him alone, we ensure that nothing competes with the transforming power of the gospel.

## Tradition Seven

**“Groups should be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.”**

Tradition Seven protects the spiritual integrity, independence, and purity of Christian recovery groups. When a group supports itself, it remains free from outside influence, pressure, or expectations. No organization, donor, or individual can shape the message, control the direction, or interfere with the work God is doing.

Scripture affirms the value of taking responsibility for the ministry God entrusts to us:

*“Each one should carry their own load.” (Galatians 6:5)*

*“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart... for God loves a cheerful giver.” — 2 Corinthians 9:7*

Self-support is not about money — it is about spiritual ownership. When members contribute what they can, the group becomes a shared work of grace. Everyone participates. Everyone invests. Everyone has a stake in the health and future of the ministry.

Paul modeled this principle in his own life:

*“We worked night and day... so that we would not be a burden to any of you.” (1 Thessalonians 2:9)*

By declining outside contributions, groups avoid the subtle dangers of dependency, obligation, or divided loyalty. Outside funding can come with strings attached — expectations, influence, or pressure to change the message. Tradition Seven ensures that the only influence on the group is the Holy Spirit.

Self-support also fosters gratitude and unity. When members give — whether financially, through service, or through simple acts of stewardship — they participate in the ongoing work of Christ within the group. It becomes a shared mission, not a subsidized program.

**In practical terms, Tradition Seven means:**

- We support our group through voluntary giving
- We decline outside financial contributions
- We avoid obligations that could influence our message
- We take responsibility for the ministry God has entrusted to us
- We cultivate gratitude, unity, and shared ownership

**Closing Reflection:** Tradition Seven invites us to trust God as our Provider and to take responsibility for the ministry He has given us. When we support our groups with willing hearts, we protect the purity of the message and the freedom of the Spirit’s work. In this shared stewardship, we discover that God supplies every need — not through outside sources, but through the faithful generosity of His people.

## Tradition Eight

**“Groups should remain forever non-professional, although we may hire special workers.”**

Tradition Eight protects the heart of Christian recovery by keeping the ministry grounded in humility, service, and shared responsibility. Recovery is not a professional service — it is a spiritual fellowship where broken people help one another find freedom in Christ. No degrees, credentials, or titles are required to offer hope, encouragement, or truth.

*“Freely you have received; freely give.” — Matthew 10:8*

Paul reminds us that God works through ordinary people:

*“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.” (2 Corinthians 4:7)*

This Tradition ensures that recovery groups never become counseling centers, therapy clinics, or professional programs. The power of recovery does not come from human expertise — it comes from the Holy Spirit working through surrendered hearts.

At the same time, Tradition Eight recognizes that certain tasks within the broader ministry may require trained workers — administrative staff, technical support, or specialized roles that help the ministry function smoothly. These workers support the mission, but they do not replace the spiritual fellowship that defines recovery.

Jesus modeled servant-hearted ministry:

*“The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.” (Matthew 20:28)*

When groups remain non-professional, they stay accessible, welcoming, and free from hierarchy. No one is elevated above another. No one is seen as the “expert.” We are all equal at the foot of the cross, and we all depend on Christ for healing.

**In practical terms, Tradition Eight means:**

- We keep recovery groups non-professional and spiritually focused
- We rely on Christ, not credentials, for healing
- We allow service centers to employ workers when needed
- We avoid turning meetings into counseling or therapy sessions
- We maintain humility, equality, and shared responsibility

**Closing Reflection:** Tradition Eight reminds us that the power of recovery lies not in professionalism but in the presence of Christ. When we serve one another with humility and love, the Holy Spirit moves freely. By keeping our groups simple, spiritual, and non-professional, we create a space where anyone — regardless of background — can encounter the healing grace of Jesus.

## Tradition Nine

**“Groups ought never to be organized, though we may create service boards responsible directly to those they serve.”**

Tradition Nine protects the spiritual simplicity and relational warmth of Christian recovery. Recovery groups are not meant to become rigid institutions, hierarchical systems, or tightly controlled organizations. They are living fellowships — gatherings of people seeking Christ together, guided by the Holy Spirit rather than by bureaucracy.

Jesus taught that true greatness is found in humility and service:

*“The greatest among you will be your servant.” (Matthew 23:11)*

This Tradition reminds us that recovery groups function best when they remain flexible, Spirit-led, and relational. Meetings are not governed by rules, titles, or structures. Instead, they are shaped by shared purpose, mutual respect, and Christ-centered unity.

At the same time, Tradition Nine recognizes that certain practical tasks — coordinating events, managing resources, supporting multiple groups, or maintaining ministry operations — may require organized service bodies. These boards or committees exist not to govern, but to serve. Their authority is not top-down; it is derived from the groups they support.

Paul emphasized the value of orderly service:

*“But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.” (1 Corinthians 14:40)*

Service boards help maintain order without controlling the spiritual life of the groups. They handle logistics so that meetings can remain focused on recovery, Scripture, and the presence of Christ.

**In practical terms, Tradition Nine means:**

- We keep recovery groups simple, spiritual, and relational
- We avoid rigid structures that hinder the Holy Spirit’s work
- We create service boards only when needed for practical support
- We ensure committees remain accountable to the groups they serve
- We prioritize humility, service, and shared responsibility

**Closing Reflection:** Tradition Nine invites us to embrace simplicity while honoring the need for practical support. When groups remain free from unnecessary organization, the Holy Spirit moves with greater freedom. And when service boards operate with humility and accountability, they strengthen the ministry without overshadowing it. In this balance, recovery becomes a place where Christ leads, people serve, and lives are transformed.

## Tradition Ten

**“Groups have no opinions on outside issues; hence our name ought never be drawn into public controversy.”**

Tradition Ten protects the ministry from being pulled into debates, divisions, or controversies that distract from the message of Christ. Recovery groups exist for one purpose — to help people find freedom in Jesus. When groups take positions on political, social, or cultural issues, they risk alienating those who need healing and shifting the focus away from the gospel.

Paul urged believers to avoid pointless arguments:

*“Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels.”* (2 Timothy 2:23) and *“Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life... mind your own affairs.”* — 1 Thessalonians 4:11

This Tradition ensures that recovery meetings remain safe spaces where people from all backgrounds, opinions, and experiences can come without fear of judgment or debate. When outside issues enter the room, unity suffers, and the message becomes clouded.

Jesus modeled a different way. He consistently refused to be drawn into political traps or public controversies. Instead, He focused on the heart, on truth, and on the mission the Father gave Him.

*“My kingdom is not of this world.”* (John 18:36)

Tradition Ten reminds us that our message is spiritual, not political; eternal, not temporary. We are not here to win arguments — we are here to offer hope. When we stay out of public controversy, we keep the ministry centered on Christ and open to all who seek healing.

**In practical terms, Tradition Ten means:**

- We avoid taking positions on political or social issues
- We refuse to let controversy distract from Christ
- We protect the unity and safety of the group
- We welcome people from all backgrounds without debate
- We keep our message focused on the gospel

**Closing Reflection:** Tradition Ten calls us to guard the purity and simplicity of our mission. When we refuse to be drawn into outside issues, we create a refuge where anyone can encounter the love and truth of Jesus. By keeping our focus on Him alone, we ensure that nothing — not politics, not controversy, not opinion — overshadows the healing power of the gospel.

## Tradition Eleven

**“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.”**

Tradition Eleven protects the humility, integrity, and spiritual focus of Christian recovery. It reminds us that the power of this ministry does not come from advertising, self-promotion, or public image — it comes from the transforming work of Christ in people’s lives. When others see genuine change, hope, and freedom in us, they are drawn to the message far more effectively than any promotional effort could accomplish.

Jesus taught that our lives themselves are a testimony:

*“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”* (Matthew 5:16)

This Tradition encourages us to let God’s work speak for itself. Recovery grows through personal invitation, authentic relationships, and the quiet witness of changed lives. We do not need to promote ourselves — Christ is the One who draws people.

At the same time, Tradition Eleven emphasizes the importance of personal anonymity in public spaces. This protects individuals from unwanted exposure, preserves the safety of the group, and prevents anyone from becoming a public “face” of the ministry. Recovery is not about personalities — it is about Christ.

Paul reminds us of the importance of humility: *“For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake.”* (2 Corinthians 4:5)

By maintaining anonymity, we avoid pride, protect our members, and keep the focus where it belongs — on Jesus and His healing power.

**In practical terms, Tradition Eleven means:**

- We rely on attraction — changed lives — rather than promotion
- We maintain personal anonymity in all public media
- We avoid elevating individuals as representatives of the ministry
- We protect the privacy and dignity of every member
- We keep Christ, not ourselves, at the center of our message

**Closing Reflection:** Tradition Eleven calls us to walk in humility and trust. When we let Christ shine through our lives, people are naturally drawn to the hope they see. By maintaining anonymity and avoiding self-promotion, we protect the ministry from pride and keep the spotlight on Jesus — the true source of healing, freedom, and transformation.

## Tradition Twelve

**“Anonymity (unconditional love) is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.”**

Tradition Twelve brings us to the heart of Christian recovery: humility. Anonymity is not about secrecy — it is about spiritual posture. It reminds us that recovery is not built on personalities, charisma, or individual achievement. It is built on Christ, on grace, and on the shared commitment to live out the principles that keep our groups healthy and unified — unconditional love.

Scripture calls us to this kind of humility: *“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.”* (Philippians 2:3)

Anonymity protects us from pride, comparison, and the temptation to elevate ourselves or others. It keeps the focus on God’s work rather than on human effort. When we practice anonymity, we acknowledge that every victory is a gift of grace, and every step of growth is the result of Christ’s transforming power.

Jesus modeled this humility perfectly: *“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.”* (Mark 10:45)

Tradition Twelve also protects the unity of the group. When personalities dominate, conflict follows. When principles lead, peace follows. Anonymity helps us remember that no one is above another, no one is the “face” of the ministry, and no one’s voice outweighs the truth of Scripture or the leading of the Holy Spirit.

This Tradition calls us to live in a way that honors Christ — quietly, faithfully, and without seeking recognition. In doing so, we create a safe, humble, grace-filled environment where God can work freely.

**In practical terms, Tradition Twelve means:**

- We practice humility in all things
- We avoid elevating personalities or seeking recognition
- We place spiritual principles above personal preferences
- We protect the unity and safety of the group
- We keep Christ at the center of every meeting

**Closing Reflection:** Tradition Twelve invites us into a life shaped by humility, grace, and spiritual maturity. When we place principles before personalities, we reflect the heart of Christ and create a community where healing can flourish. In this atmosphere of humility, the Holy Spirit moves freely, transforming lives and drawing us deeper into the freedom and love of Jesus.

## Summary - Unconditional Love

**“The greatest of these is love.” (1 Corinthians 13:13)**

Unconditional love is the thread that weaves through every Tradition, every meeting, every act of service, and every step of recovery. It is the love of Christ — patient, kind, sacrificial, and steadfast — that makes healing possible. Without love, recovery becomes a set of rules. With love, it becomes a journey of grace.

Jesus set the standard for us:

*“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”* (John 13:34)

This is not a suggestion. It is the foundation of Christian community. Christ’s love is not based on performance, perfection, or worthiness. It is freely given, relentlessly faithful, and powerful enough to transform even the most wounded heart.

Unconditional love is what welcomes the newcomer without judgment. It is what keeps long-timers humble and grateful. It is what restores unity when conflict arises. It is what protects the group from pride, division, and distraction. It is what reminds us that we are all equal at the foot of the cross.

Paul describes this love with breathtaking clarity:

*“Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”* (1 Corinthians 13:7)

This is the love that sustains recovery. It is the love that gives us courage to be honest, strength to forgive, and humility to grow. It is the love that binds us together as brothers and sisters in Christ, walking a shared path toward freedom.

Unconditional love is not passive — it is active. It shows up. It listens. It serves. It forgives. It protects. It perseveres. And it always points back to Jesus, the One who loved us first and loves us still.

**In practical terms, unconditional love means:**

- We welcome without judgment
- We forgive freely and often
- We speak truth with gentleness and grace
- We serve one another with humility
- We reflect the heart of Christ in all we do

**Closing Reflection:** Unconditional love is the heartbeat of recovery. It is the atmosphere in which healing happens, the soil in which spiritual growth takes root, and the light that guides us forward. As we practice this love — imperfectly but sincerely — we become living testimonies of Christ’s grace. And in that grace, we discover the freedom, unity, and hope that only Jesus can give.



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