

Tradition X

SHORT FORM: 'ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS HAS NO OPINION ON OUTSIDE ISSUES; HENCE THE AA NAME OUGHT NEVER BE DRAWN INTO PUBLIC CONTROVERSY.'

LONG FORM: 'NO AA GROUP OR MEMBER SHOULD EVER, IN SUCH A WAY AS TO IMPLICATE AA, EXPRESS ANY OPINION ON OUTSIDE CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES—PARTICULARLY THOSE OF POLITICS, ALCOHOL REFORM, OR SECTARIAN RELIGION. THE ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS GROUPS OPPOSE NO ONE. CONCERNING SUCH MATTERS THEY CAN EXPRESS NO VIEWS WHATEVER.'

Make a list of areas of your life, e.g.

Home
Work
AA
Friends
Other

Ask, with each of these areas (where relevant):

- Do I take anyone's inventory but my own?
- Do I gossip?
- Do I listen to gossip?
- Do I act as a peacemaker?

If the 'inside issue' is my relationship with God and God's will for me in the world:

- When tempted to intervene or interfere, do I ask God, 'outside issue or inside issue?'?
- Do I have the courage to take decisive action in the world?
- Does the outside issue of others' opinions stop me from doing God's will?
- Do I hide behind Tradition Ten to avoid taking difficult stands?
- In relationships with others, do I try to effect change by criticising or by making polite requests?
- Do I court controversy just to stand out?

Tradition X ideas and quotations

'An outside issue is anything outside of my relationship with God through sobriety.'

'If I am not taking my own inventory, I automatically begin to blame the world for keeping happiness from me.'

'Resentment and guilt come from the same place: judgement.'

'I know that two people can disagree and both be right in different ways.'

'I am God's voice, hands, and feet in the world. I avoid taking stands on outside issues in a controversial manner but take tough stands on matters of justice as God directs me with the love of a peacemaker.'

'Do not be afraid or dismayed at their large army, for the battle is not yours but God's' (2 Chronicles 20:15)
'My assignment in difficult situations is just to show up, pray, and let God take care of the conflict.'