

Alcoholics Anonymous

The Broad Road of AA

"To us, the Realm of the Spirit is **broad**, roomy, all inclusive; never exclusive, or forbidding...."

Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 46.

Contempt for Sound Doctrine

"Any number of alcoholics are bedeviled by the dire conviction that if they ever go near AA, they will be pressured to **conform to some brand of faith or theology.**"

As Bill Sees it, p. 201.

"God-as-you-understand-Him": Any Name

"We suggest that you find a substitute for this destructive power, alcohol, and turn to a Higher Power, **regardless of the name** by which you may identify that power. We suggest that you turn your will and your life over to God, *as you understand Him.*"

The Clery Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 9

Powerlessness

"We admitted we were **powerless** over alcohol, that our lives had become unmanageable."

Step 1

Spiritual Awakening

"Having had a **spiritual awakening** as the result of these steps..."

Step 12

The Bible

The Narrow Road of Christ

"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and **broad** is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who will go in by it. Because **narrow** is the gate and difficult is the way that leads to life, and there are few who find it."

Matthew 7:13-14

Sound Doctrine

"For the time will come when they **will not endure sound doctrine....**"

2 Timothy 4:3-4

Jesus Christ: No Other Name

"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is **no other name** under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved."

Acts 4:12

Power in Christ

No believer can claim to be powerless: "I **can** do all things through Christ who strengthens me." **Philippians 4:13**

Spiritually Dead in Sin

Man is spiritually *dead*, not *asleep*. He needs *resurrection*, not *awakening*.

"...even when we were **dead** in sins and transgressions, (He) made us **alive** together with Christ." **Ephesians 2:5**

The "Big Book": AA's "Bible"

Portions of the "Big Book," Alcoholics Anonymous, are read "religiously" at every AA meeting, much like Scripture readings at Christian worship services.

Leadership: "Trusted Servants"

"Our leaders are but trusted servants. They do not govern."

Tradition 2

The "Moral Inventory"

Step 4 requires a "searching and fearless moral inventory," essentially a detailed catalogue of past sins to be "confessed" to some other person to whom such confession is not biblically due.

AA "Birthdays"

AA members celebrate annual "birthdays" based on the date of their last drink.

The Goal: Sobriety

The goal of AA is abstinence from alcoholic beverages (sobriety). Other sins, such as sexual immorality, are commonly tolerated so long as the AA member isn't drinking.

Fellowship/Unity: A Common Sin

AA's fellowship is built around the common sin of drunkenness. "Personal recovery depends upon AA unity."

Tradition 1

The Bible: Sufficient for Life & Godliness

"His divine power has granted to us **everything** pertaining to life and godliness through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence." 2 Peter 1:3

Elders

AA's leaders and individual sponsors usurp the role God has ordained for church elders: "Shepherd the flock among you...." 1 Peter 5:2

No Condemnation

As Christians, our sins are fully covered by the blood of Christ. We confess our sins, as appropriate, to God and to those actually sinned against. Nowhere does Scripture require new believers to make a detailed list of all past sins.

"There is therefore now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:1

Regeneration by the Holy Spirit

AA's practice is a "secular regeneration." Christians celebrate their new birth in Christ.

The Goal: Sanctification

"For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son...." Romans 8:29

Fellowship/Unity: A Common Salvation

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father..." Ephesians 4:4-6

Carrying "the Message"

"Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to **carry this message** to alcoholics and to **practice these principles** in all our affairs."

Step 12

Incurable Disease

AA's literature is permeated with the dogma, taught faithfully to newcomers, that "once an alcoholic, always an alcoholic." There is no "cure" offered, only continual abstinence from all alcoholic beverages.

and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe** all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20

Forgiven Sin

"Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, **nor drunkards**, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such **were** some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God."

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

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Christian Evangelism

"Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father