Dec. 15, 2018 Tradition 12 Theresa C.

Tradition 12: “Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles over personalities.”

The 12 traditions protect our members and ensures our meetings are a safe place. More importantly, anonymity provides each member with equality. No member is higher or lower in status than the next. Within our rooms we set aside all that may separate us in the outside world. Anonymity begins by letting go of our prejudices, our judgments, and others personalities. Then anonymity continues when we set aside and let go of our own personality.

You may have heard the Set-Aside Prayer before, or it may be new to you.

God,

Please help me set aside

Everything I think I know

About myself, my disease,

The 12 steps, and especially You;

So I may have an open mind

And a new experience

Of all these things.

Please let me see the truth.

While anonymity is about last names and confidentiality, at its heart, anonymity is about accepting each other regardless of who we are and accepting each and every one of us as equals. From selfish to selfless. From fellow to fellowship. We are all different but we allow each other to recover in dignity and to carry the message to the best of our ability.

Anonymity is a big part of our spiritual foundation. Anonymity stands strong under the program to provide security for the work of the greater good to be done. Every other principle is built upon the premise of anonymity and equality. In a word - unity.

Q. Do we treat everyone who attends our meeting as equals?

Q. Are we more willing to tolerate unhealthy behavior from some members more than, or differently from, other members? Do our standards change depending on who is involved?

These are real situations that come up. Please share your experience.