



Deep or Shallow Discipleship?

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Situations

- People staying away from church because things are tough
 - Disappointment in fellow members actions/behaviour
 - I know everything I need to know
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- All 3 of these things have a serious effect on our wellbeing.



Matthew 28.18-20

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.



1 Corinthians

¹⁶ I appeal to you, then, be imitators of me. ¹⁷ For this reason I sent^[a] you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ Jesus, as I teach them everywhere in every church. 1 Cor 4.16-18

¹ Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. 1 Cor 11.1

Situations

- People staying away from church because things are tough
- Disappointment in fellow members actions/behaviour
- Know everything I need to know

- This is not how discipleship should be.



Discipleship

For at least several decades the churches of the Western World have not made discipleship a condition of being a Christian. Dallas Willard, *The Great Omission* pg.4

This further contributes I believe, to why the frontier of emotional health has largely been ignored in most discipleship...models in our churches and seminaries. For this we are paying the heavy price of stunted growth and shallow disciples in our churches. Peter Scazzero, *The Emotionally Healthy Church*, pg.58

Pseudo-Transformation

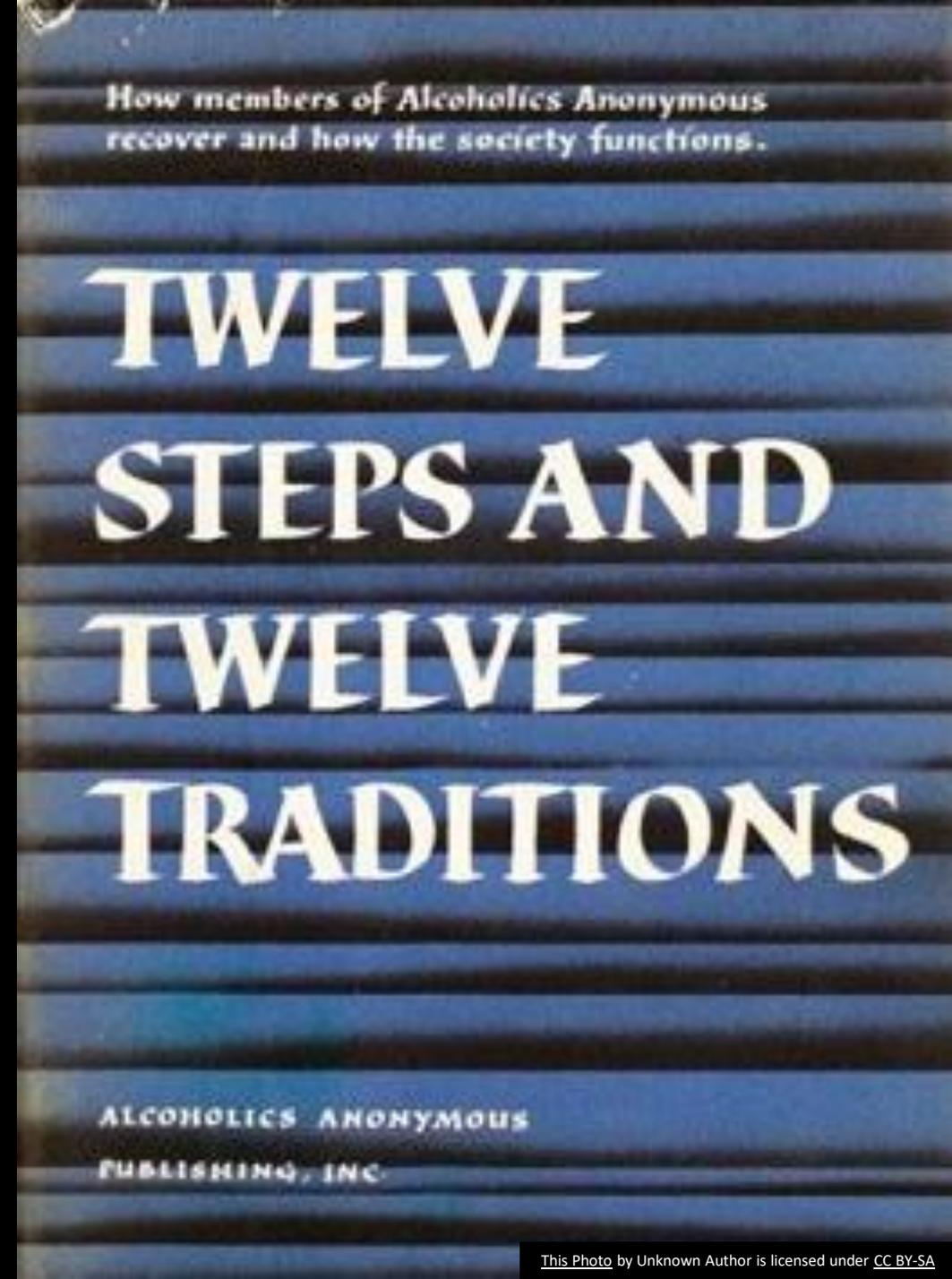
The great danger that arises when we don't experience authentic transformation is that we will settle for what might be called *pseudo-transformation*. We know that as Christians we are called to "come out and be separate," that our faith and spiritual commitment should make us different somehow. But if we are not marked by greater and greater amounts of love and joy, we will inevitably look for substitute ways of distinguishing ourselves from those who are not Christians. This deep pattern is almost inescapable for religious people: If we do not become changed from the inside- out if we don't morph – we will be tempted to find external methods to satisfy our need to feel that we're different from those outside the faith. If we cannot be transformed, we will settle for being informed or conformed. John Ortberg, *The Life You've Always Wanted* pg 30-31



An Approach to Deep Discipleship

12 step programs – like AA, NA, OA

- Acceptance
- Safety
- Honesty
- Guidance



Acceptance

Acceptance – the only requirement is a desire to change

¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹² But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. **Matt 9.11-12**



Safety

People regularly describe 12 step meetings as a place they need to be, a safe place, a place they need to be when things are not going well in their life.



Honesty

Job 7.11-14

11 “Therefore I will not restrain my mouth;
I will speak in the anguish of my spirit;
I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.
12 Am I the Sea, or the Dragon,
that you set a guard over me?
13 When I say, ‘My bed will comfort me,
my couch will ease my complaint,’
14 then you scare me with dreams
and terrify me with visions,

Psalms 139.19-22

19 O that you would kill the wicked, O God,
and that the bloodthirsty would depart from
me—
20 those who speak of you maliciously,
and lift themselves up against you for evil![a]
21 Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord?
And do I not loathe those who rise up against
you?
22 I hate them with perfect hatred;
I count them my enemies.

Guidance

In the 12 step programs you are led through the steps by a Sponsor

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Matt 28.19**

¹⁶ I appeal to you, then, be imitators of me. ¹⁷ For this reason I sent^[a] you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ Jesus, as I teach them everywhere in every church. **1 Cor 4.16-18**



The Mark of Discipleship

John 13.35

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.



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