

Template for a Letter to AA Groups

Dear members of...

The Serenity Prayer speaks strongly to many alcoholics, especially in the early stages of recovery. It talks to them about the hard reality of past wreckage in their lives, but that these things can be accepted with serenity. It talks to them about taking action to make a better life and brings them hope of becoming a stronger, wiser person.

As all of you know the prayer is:

God, grant me
The serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
The courage to change the things I can, and
The wisdom to know the difference.

Many people new to AA are struggling with their faith, but these principles are just as valid without the reference to God. In addition, most people perceive it as non-denominational.

On the other hand, the Lord's Prayer is specifically a Christian prayer. People of Jewish, Moslem, Buddhist, Hindu and other faiths do not use this prayer. They report that they are troubled by its mandatory use in AA meetings. An article written by Mary C. and published in the October 2003 Grapevine, "*Is AA Just for Christians*," fully explains what is troublesome about requiring this prayer for the newly sober alcoholic, either agnostic or of a non-Christian denomination. I hope you read it.

What I'm asking from you is to consider using the Serenity Prayer to close our meeting, instead of the Lord's Prayer, for the reasons outlined above and in Mary C.'s article. I'd like us to discuss this at our business meeting and determine what our group conscience is on the matter.

In line with Tradition Four, we can make this decision autonomously, as part of our group conscience. There is no requirement from the A.A. General Service Office (GSO) to say the Lord's Prayer at each meeting.

Clearly, I'm not asking anyone to deny or modify their Christian faith. I'm only asking you to think of the alcoholic in early recovery. I believe this change would benefit them. I believe this change would help us to be more in line with our A.A. Preamble which states: "*A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution.*"

Please consider this change. Thank you in advance for your time. I look forward to discussing this at the next business meeting.

Sincerely,

A humble member of our group,