

## PRINCIPLES

### **Big Book page 64 “We listed people, institutions and principles with whom we were angry.”**

After much discussion on the Fourth Step reference to “principles” I have researched six dictionaries for definitions and have come up with some examples of principles inline with the dictionary definitions that are in context with what the Big Book is asking us to look at.

### **Thorndike Century Dictionary 1935**

1. a truth which is a foundation for other truths, as, the principle of democratic government.
2. a fundamental belief, as, religious principles.
3. uprightness, honor. Washington was a man of principle.

### **Webster New Collegiate Dictionary 1980**

1. A. a comprehensive and fundamental law, doctrine, or assumption.  
B. (1) a rule or code of conduct . (2) habitual devotion to right principles < a man of~ >  
C. the laws or facts of nature underlying the working of an artificial device. (2) a primary source  
(3) an underlying faculty or endowment : an ingredient (as a chemical) that exhibits or imparts a characteristic quality <such ~s of human nature as greed and curiosity (4) a divine principle: God – in principle : with respect to fundamentals (prepared to accept the proposition in principle)

### **Webster’s Comprehensive Dictionary 1941**

1. Fundamental truth or doctrine; reason; foundation of morality or religion.

### **Webster’s Dictionary of the English Language – Unabridged 1955**

1. a fundamental truth, law, doctrine, or motivating force, upon which others are based.
2. a rule of conduct, especially of right conduct ; as, the principle of racial equality.
3. (a) such rules collectively; (b) adherence to them; integrity; uprightness; as, a person of principle.
4. an essential element, constituent, or quality, especially one that produces a specific effect; as, the active principle of a medicine.
5. the law of nature by which a thing operates; as, capillary attraction is the principle of a blotter.

### **Dictionary.com**

1. an accepted or professed rule of action or conduct: a person of good moral principles.
2. a fundamental, primary, or general law or truth from which others are derived: the principles of modern physics.
3. a fundamental doctrine or tenet; a distinctive ruling opinion: the principles of the Stoics.
4. principles, a personal or specific basis of conduct or management: to adhere to one's principles; a kindergarten run on modern principles.
5. guiding sense of the requirements and obligations of right conduct: a person of principle.

### **World English Dictionary**

1. a standard or rule of personal conduct: a man of principle
2. ( often plural ) a set of such moral rules: he'd stoop to anything ; he has no principles
3. adherence to such a moral code; morality: it's not the money but the principle of the thing ; torn between principle and expediency
4. a fundamental or general truth or law: first principles
5. a rule or law concerning a natural phenomenon or the behavior of a system: the principle of the conservation of mass
6. an underlying or guiding theory or belief: the hereditary principle ; socialist principles

To some the opposite resentment of these Principles may apply. These are merely examples of Principles to help you get started to consider your own list. There are many fundamental beliefs, rules, laws, doctrines that we live with and some may really bother you... so we write them down on paper. Be realistic, not liking the Principle is not necessarily resentment. Pray, consider and write them if the Principle really hurts, threatens or interferes with you – if it really bothers you when you think of it.

#### Fundamental beliefs or rules of church or religion:

- I resent the principle of creation.
- I resent the idea that if you've thought it you've already sinned.
- I resent having to learn a different language to participate (Hebrew, Latin, Japanese, etc.).
- I resent the principle of tithing.
- I resent the principle of manifesting (wrong thoughts bring you bad results in your life).
- I resent the principle of intolerance (from people who preach tolerance).
- I resent the principle that life is suffering.
- I resent the principles regarding religious rules on marriage.
- I resent the principles regarding religious rules on birth control.

#### Fundamental beliefs or rules of morality or society:

- I resent the principle that alcoholics are damaged people.
- I resent the principle of monogamy.
- I resent the principles against abortion (or "in favor of abortion").
- I resent the principle that men rule the family.
- I resent the principle that men are worth more money than women for the same job.
- I resent the principle that men are the main financial support of the family.
- I resent the principle that women stay home and raise kids – men go to work.
- I resent the principle of racial equality (or "inequality")
- I resent the principle that you're only as valued as the size of your income.
- I resent the principle that if you don't drink you're un-social.

#### Fundamental beliefs or rules of AA:

- I resent the principle that only alcoholics should participate.
- I resent the principle you don't need to work the Steps or the Big Book, just go to meetings.
- I resent the principle that meetings are for dumping your problems
- I resent the principle that I'm alcoholic forever.
- I resent the principle that I must help others.
- I resent the principle that AA is about finding God.
- I resent the principle that you shouldn't get into a relationship in the first year.

#### Fundamental laws or truths of nature:

- I resent the principle of evolution.
- I resent the principle that we all get old.
- I resent the principle that anyone around me could get sick (cancer or other illnesses).
- I resent the principle we will all have to die.
- I resent the principle that natural disasters are part of life (IE: earthquakes, tornados)
- I resent the principle that life is and will always be difficult.

#### Fundamental laws or rules of government:

- I resent the principle of open immigration
- I resent the principle that we must pay taxes
- I resent the principle of government wasteful spending
- I resent the principle of socialist ideas (democratic, republican, liberal).