



4501 Troost Street, Kansas City, MO 64110-4127

Phone: (816) 561-0567

info@alcoholicsvictorious.org

## What is Alcoholics Victorious?

Alcoholics Victorious is a network of Christian support groups for chemically dependent persons. We believe that alcoholism is an addiction, and that the alcoholic is an individual who cannot, as a matter of will power alone, control his or her own dependency.

Some groups also sponsor meetings for the spouses and concerned friends of addicts. The central theme of Alcoholics Victorious is found in 2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a new creation, old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." Realizing that faith in Jesus Christ is the true way to peace, these Christians in recovery have banded together in a mutual effort to transfer dependence on their addictions to dependence on Christ. Their common goal is to allow Jesus to become the guiding influence in their lives, and lead them to recovery.

By sharing our experience, strength, and hope, we encourage Christian growth as we slowly separate ourselves from the bitter and lonely trauma of alcoholism and its effects on the family. We are devoted to: support and education about addictive problems, reconciliation to GOD and family, and encouragement and support of one another through fellowship in recovery. We are here to grow.

In AV meetings, both the [Twelve Steps](#) and the [Alcoholics Victorious Creed](#) are used. However, AV is not intended to replace Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-anon, or any other support group. Nor is it a substitute for treatment centers, rescue mission recovery programs, or professional counseling. Rather, in appreciation for the work they are doing, AV makes an effort to cooperate with these efforts whenever possible. The focus of Alcoholics Victorious is to provide a safe group environment where recovering individuals who have recognized Jesus Christ as their "Higher Power" can gather together and share their struggles and their victories.

## Who should attend Alcoholics Victorious meetings?

*Believers* struggling with an addiction to alcohol/drugs who, although committed Christians, may still be suffering in silence out of fear, shame,

guilt, and lack of ability to trust -- all of which are characteristic responses to this family disease.

*Non-Christians* still addicted to alcohol/drugs who feel compelled to search out the true "higher power" Jesus Christ, attempting to identify Him, to come to know Him, and then to trust Him for healing power.

### **Why a "Christian AA"?**

Those who are familiar with AA may well ask the question above. For believers in Christ, the answer is simple: we have identified Jesus as our "Higher Power" and we would welcome the opportunity to meet in His name to deal with the problems that surround addictions. The meetings allow us to speak freely of our relationship with Him, share our struggles with faith issues, and use intercessory prayer for our healing. Christians are NOT immune to addictive or compulsive disorders, and hiding our problems from our church adds to our "shame" burdens and hinders healing.

Those who have not yet placed their faith in Christ have an opportunity to come to know the true "Higher Power" spoken of in AA, finding an atmosphere of accepting Christian love in which to form a personal relationship with the Lord.

For those unfamiliar with the AA approach to recovery, Alcoholics Victorious provides an opportunity to learn the reality that there is a "spiritual" element in addiction that must be addressed through the true GOD. And here in a Christian environment, forgiveness and release from shame can be found so that we may approach our GOD with freedom and boldness.

In Alcoholics Victorious, the 12-step approach to recovery is combined with support from God's Word, confidential sharing among group members, and loving prayers.

### **What Alcoholics Victorious is NOT:**

- A substitute for church attendance
- A Bible study
- A professional therapy group
- Geared to any one denomination
- Intended to replace secular Al-Anon or AA meetings
- Intended to replace or undermine any other Christian groups



## **New Group Charter Application Process**

Alcoholics Victorious is a network of Christian support groups for chemically dependent persons established in 1948. AV is not intended to replace Alcoholics Anonymous, Ala-non, or any other support group. The focus of Alcoholics Victorious is to provide a safe group environment where recovering individuals who have recognized Jesus Christ as their "Higher Power" can gather together and share their struggles and their victories.

Alcoholics Victorious is an official program of the Footprints, Inc., which was founded in 1913. Footprints, Inc. is a comprehensive fellowship of 12 step trusted servants, (survivors of self abuse) professional Christian Care Providers and a host of committed caring Churches. (Learn more about the Footprints at <http://www.kcfootprints.org>)

The Director of Footprints, Inc. is the Coordinator of the Alcoholics Victorious and the Kansas City office provides the following services to AV groups:

- ❖ Handling of all correspondence and inquiries directed to Alcoholics Victorious headquarters
- ❖ Issuing of charters to qualified local groups.
- ❖ Development and distribution of literature and other resource materials offered to chartered groups at a discounted price.
- ❖ Ongoing promotion of the Alcoholics Victorious program.
- ❖ Organizing and annual conference, training events and other meetings.
- ❖ Regular mailings and other communication with chartered groups

### **Starting a new Alcoholics Victorious group?**

To establish and maintain affiliation with AV Headquarters, individual groups must file an application for an annually renewable charter. Each group designates a contact person who is responsible for communication with AV Headquarters. This individual must be a Christian with at least one year of sobriety, subscribe to our Doctrinal Statement, and be in good standing both in his/her local church and in the community.

A church, rescue mission or other Christian organization may serve as sponsor for local groups. AV Headquarters does not seek to exercise control over affiliated groups, but rather encourages them to function independently within their own communities. The role of the Kansas City Office is one of providing services and as a central contact uniting the network of affiliated groups.

Each local group may vary its meetings in activity and format. Meetings should be kept simple, usually no more than ninety minutes in length, with a time of fellowship and refreshments to follow. While meetings may open with a brief teaching, AV is intended to function as a support group and not as a Bible Study.

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*[www.alcoholicsvictorious.org](http://www.alcoholicsvictorious.org)*



## New Group Charter Application Form

### **A. Meeting Information**

1. Name of Group: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Day/Time of Meetings: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Where meetings are held: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Address: \_\_\_\_\_
5. City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Phone at Meeting: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_
7. Sponsoring Organization (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_
8. Meetings open to the public?  Yes  No      Average attendance: \_\_\_\_\_
10. Do you to use the Twelve Steps in your meetings?  Yes  No

### **B. Contact Person Information**

1. Group's Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Address: \_\_\_\_\_
3. City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_      Years Sober: \_\_\_\_\_

### **C. Payment Method** - First time registration fee is \$75.00 (annual renewal fee is \$50.00)

- Check Enclosed
- Credit Card Payment       MasterCard     Visa     American Express     Discover
- Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_      Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

- I have read and subscribe to the Alcoholics Victorious Statement of Faith.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: AV Headquarters, 4501 Troost Street, Kansas City, MO 64110-4127 Fax to: (816) 561-0572**

## Philosophy of Addiction & Recovery

We accept the American Medical Association's definition of alcoholism as:

"...an illness that is characterized by significant impairment in the emotional, psychological, spiritual, physical, and social areas that is directly associated with the persistent and excessive use of alcohol. Impairment may involve psychological, or social dysfunction. Alcoholism also is manifested as a type of drug dependence of pathological extent and pattern, which ordinarily interferes seriously with the patient's mental and physical health and his adaptation to his environment."

We recognize alcohol as a powerful and addictive drug. We further believe that alcoholism has a genetic basis in many individuals. In others, it is the result of repeated heavy drinking, even in the absence of a genetic predisposition. Concerning the spiritual implications of alcoholism; we believe it has its roots in alienation from God and the violation of conscience. We accept the Biblical definition of "drunkenness" as a sin which prohibits those who practice it from entrance into the Kingdom of God (Galatians 5:19-21) Romans 7:21)

We believe that God's power is able to deliver individuals from the compulsion to drink, and to set them free from the emotional, psychological, social, spiritual, and physical consequences of an alcoholic lifestyle. Although an individual may be delivered from the compulsion to drink (and is no longer a "drunkard" in the spiritual sense), we recognize that he is still an alcoholic in the therapeutic sense. We believe the continued use of alcohol results in changes in the emotions,

mind, and body that do not disappear upon an alcoholic's salvation. On a physiological level, he will always be "sensitized" to alcohol. Total abstinence, therefore, is a must; any use of alcohol can "activate" the chemical mechanisms of addiction leading to compulsive drinking and behavior.

We believe this physical aspect of the disease of alcoholism will remain with the recovering alcoholic until he is glorified and receives his new body from the Lord. With the acknowledgement of this fact, the Christian alcoholic will be all the more diligent to abstain from drinking, recognizing the dire consequences of alcohol use. We further believe that, if he never drinks again, this physical aspect of the illness will have no other actual effect on his life and Christian walk.

We believe that professional counseling and therapy is usually necessary to help individuals to overcome the consequences of alcoholism. Also, we recognize that alcoholism is a "family illness," and believe that all of the members of the alcoholic's family need to be a part of the recovery process by receiving specialized help themselves. We accept the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous as a reliable and orderly approach to recovery from alcoholism. We also believe that there are some very specific scriptural principles that must be applied to such an individual to assist him in a victorious and fruitful Christian walk.

Many of the attitudes, temptations, feelings, and patterns of thought resulting from the alcoholic lifestyle are not immediately removed upon an alcoholic's spiritual rebirth. We believe these things constitute elements of this "sinful nature," or "flesh," that he will struggle with as long as he

remains in this world. Therefore, through a process of discipleship, he must "transformed by the renewing of his mind" (Romans 12:2) and must learn to "walk in the Spirit that he might not fulfill the desires of the flesh." (Galatians 5:16)

## Doctrinal Statement

- We believe the Bible to be the inspired, infallible, ultimately authoritative Word of God.
- We believe there is one God, eternally existing as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is deity, that He was born of a virgin, that we are redeemed by His atoning death through His shed blood, that He bodily resurrected and ascended into Heaven, and that he will come again in power and great glory.
- We believe that men are saved through a direct, personal encounter with the risen Lord, at which time they are regenerated by the Holy Spirit. This event we hold to be an experience, rather than a doctrinal supposition.
- We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, by whom Christ indwells each believer enabling him to live a godly life of obedience as he reaches for maturity.
- We believe the Holy Spirit unites all true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and that together they form one body, the church