

Erin Fremin
10-17-2009

Why the Rotary Four-Way Test is Relevant Today

Everyone every day has to make important decisions in their life. Whether it is to take the freeway to work or walk, steal that cd from the store that you've wanted badly for a long time, or just to simply be someone's friend or not. No matter how big or small the decision, one wrong mistake could change your life forever. That is why the Rotary Four-Way Test could help you choose the right answer every time for your decisions in life.

First of all I'm going to tell a little about the four-way test. It is based off of four simple questions, "Is it the truth?", "Is it fair to all concerned?", "Will it build goodwill and better friendships?", and "Will it be beneficial to all concerned?" The test was started by Hebert Taylor during the Great Depression. It has grown to become one of most important ideals in the 20th century. I believe that when Taylor created this test, he had no idea how hugely it would affect lives of people for the better every single day.

Now to start talking about the questions. "Is it the truth?" I can't think of one single person on this earth that likes to be lied too. As a matter of fact I know no one does. It causes trust issues and most of the time hurts peoples feelings when they find out they have been lied to. You would especially not like to be lied to if you were a manager at a job. The consequences of lying are also harsh. By asking this question it could help you keep yourself out of a whole lot of mess that no one wants to get into.

"Is it fair to all concerned?" One of the worse things to have to deal with is someone making a decision without asking another involved for their opinion. It most certainly wouldn't be fair to that person if you made a decision without letting them have a say so in it, if it affected them.

"Will it build goodwill and better friendships?" Hopefully everything you do is for the good of mankind. No one wants to be apart of a group that is not friendly. You also cannot grow without people. If every employee at a store was unfriendly to the customers, chances are that the store's business will not grow due to the lack of unfriendliness. Your attitude toward a person makes a big difference.

Finally we have "Will it be beneficial to all concerned?" This means will it help everyone that is affected by your decision. You shouldn't want to do something that only helps a certain group or thing. If you can't help everyone maybe you could think of something to somehow meet in the middle and both groups will get something out of your decision.

Erin Fremin
10-17-2009

I have not heard of the four-way test until I was given a paper on it at school about an essay. Going home and doing research on it has made me realize how much this test could help me. Basically what I'm trying to get across is to choose your actions wisely or better yet, use this test. You never know who's life you could be impacting by your decisions.