

“Of the things we think, say or do

Is it the TRUTH?

Is it FAIR to all concerned?

**Will it build GOODWILL and
BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**

**Will it be BENEFICIAL to all
concerned?”**

These four questions make up the Rotary 4-way test. By knowing and using this test, we could all become kinder people, but first you must understand what each question means.

“Is it the TRUTH?”

When you ask yourself this question, you are asking yourself if what you are about to say is honest. In many instances, people stray from the truth in order to keep themselves from getting into immediate trouble. I know from experience that when you tell the truth, the consequences are a lot better than if you lie. Sometimes, the truth is not beneficial to others. In this case, it is best to tell the person in private, or even write an anonymous note. In any case, honesty is always the best policy.

“Is it FAIR to all concerned?”

When something is fair, it is free from bias, dishonesty, or injustice. I always try to be fair to everyone because I never know who I might see again in my future. I once heard a quote that said, "People may not remember exactly what you did, or what you said, but they will always remember how you made them feel." Even

something as small as not picking someone on a team could make a difference in their lives. I still remember recess in 5th grade. Whenever we played basketball, I would either not be picked or be put on the losing team. I would go home everyday and tell my mom how it wasn't fair. They never gave me a chance to prove that I could play. Even though those kids and I are friends now, I will never forget how they were unfair to me.

“Will it bring GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?”

Goodwill and better friendships are basically the same thing. They both have to do with making friends and improving your relationships with friends. My mom has always explained to me that I don't have to be BEST friends with everyone, but I do have to be nice and friendly to everyone. To be a friend with someone, you don't have to spend every minute with them. Sometimes, just smiling is enough.

“Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?”

When something is beneficial, it is helpful. The best example of saying things that are beneficial to others is to use the old phrase my kindergarten teachers would say, “If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all.”

This 4-way test is very helpful. By following it, you can develop a life of high values and moral character, not only professionally but also personally with friends and family. I'd like to thank the Rotary Club for bringing this test to my attention. I know it will change my life forever.