

4-Way Test and Me  
By: Katherine Parshall

Until this year, I had never heard about the 4-Way Test. The questions asked in the 4-Way Test are dealing with truth, fairness, goodwill, and friendships. While this may be the code for the Rotary Club, I really feel that these are actions that everyone should live by each day. As a seventh grader, I try on a daily basis to display these characteristics. By doing so, I have found each one to be beneficial not only to myself but to all those around me.

When I tell the truth, I feel closer to God, my family, and friends. About a year ago, I broke my mom's special ornament. I debated on telling her the truth about what happened. After much thought, I decided to tell her what I had done. She was a little upset that her special treasure was broken, but in the end she was glad that I was truthful. I have found that if I put my trust in others, most will do the same for me. God has helped me through hard times in my life especially when it was difficult to tell the truth. Because God has always been there for me, I try not to let him down when it comes to being honest.

Fairness has never been a problem because I had a good teacher. I learned the quality of fairness from my mom. She would never get one of her children something and not the others. In watching her, I have also learned to be fair to everyone, including my sisters. If I do something for one of my sisters then I try to be fair and do the same for each of them. Being fair is an important quality in people. One day, I hope to be like my mom and teach my own kids the importance of this valuable trait.

In our class, we talked about the word goodwill. I now understand that it means helping others without expecting anything in return. Mrs. Davis, my teacher, often tells me what a kind and caring heart I have. I want people to know that I care, so I offer to help when I can. Being a shy person with not much confidence is hard sometimes. When I help my friends, it helps to boost my confidence. I have some wonderful friendships, and I think it's because this test has been beneficial to me.

I am glad that I had the opportunity to learn about the 4-Way Test. This is a test that can help anyone. I will always do my best to continue to ask "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?". This isn't a test for one day or one week but a test to be used throughout your life.