

4- Way Test and Me by Miranda Ellis

The 4-way test is very useful. In tricky situations it is good to ask yourself, "Is it true?", "Is it fair?", "Is it beneficial to all?", and "Will it build goodwill and better friendships?". I used the 4-way test before I knew about it, but not enough. I need to ask these questions more often. It would make life a lot easier. If you are in a tough situation, asking these questions could make it better.

The first question to ask is, "Is it true?". Rumors spread like wildfire and are usually false. It is better to stay out of drama and ignore the rumors. It is also important not to start rumors. Rumors can hurt people's feelings and cause friends to look at each other differently. "Is it true" is an important question to ask yourself.

Is it fair? A time I needed to ask myself this question was when I judged my friend. She wanted to dye her hair, wear all black and become a little dark. I didn't accept her at first. I realized I was not fair to her. I judged her before I had all the facts and knew what she was going through. Then I realized it wasn't worth losing her as a friend. I still feel awful for judging her. I have learned to listen to both sides of the story and put myself in their shoes. You have to listen, you cannot drown them out. I have to remind myself - is it fair?

Will it build goodwill and better friendships? That is a question I ask myself a lot. One way I did both of these things was through my Girl Scout bronze award. I built goodwill by helping people in Zambia, which is a country in Africa. I also made friends while doing this. Two of the friends I made were C.W. and Leslie. They are missionaries with Water For The Oppressed. I also made some friends at the Rotary and Ruritan club

when I presented my project to them. I built goodwill by fostering a relationship between my church, civic organizations, and Water for the Oppressed while working on this project.

Will it benefit all? I find myself asking that question a lot. The Girl Scout project I did benefited everyone. It helped raise money to help the people in Zambia. In class students do things that don't benefit everyone. They will talk and disrupt the class and get the fun activities taken away. When they do these things it does not benefit all. They did not ask themselves this question.

The 4-way test is essential to a person's life. Everyone will need to use the 4-way test and ask themselves these questions: "Is it true?", "Is it fair?", "Will it benefit all?", and "Will it build goodwill and better friendships?". The test will help you to have less regrets. It will also help you build character and lasting friendships.