

One-Liners . . . That Changed My Life!

30 “The Rotary Four Way Test”

One of the most challenging issues for me was how to practice my faith in the marketplace, and not merely be a Sunday/Church believer. The Wichita Rotary Club helped. For almost 40 years I met weekly with other business and professional men (later the club was expanded to include women) to serve and hear speakers who encouraged and inspired us both individually and as a group.

“The Rotary Four Way Test”, one of the most widely-known codes of ethics in force today, was the foundational premise. It asked four questions: "Is it the truth?" and then adds, "Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build good will and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?"

The test was written by Herbert J. Taylor in 1932 while he was president of a struggling cooking utensil firm in Oklahoma. Taylor's own individual conscience was deeply marked by the Scriptures, and he reportedly memorized and recited each day the Sermon on the Mount. In 1954, while he was President, Taylor made the Four Way Test available to Rotary International. Today, over a million Rotarians worldwide have a higher ethical standard because of his influence.

As the world grows more secular, and becomes more interested in materialism than morality, and more dedicated to winning than to serving, each of us has to decide how we will respond.

I am deeply grateful for Rotary, Herbert J. Taylor, and many Rotarians like him, for modeling and showing a better way.

From Grandpa With Love

A Note From the Writer

Moving into my nineties caused me to reminisce. It was eye-opening to realize how much I had been changed by one-liners. I decided some of these might give others a new insight or a chuckle, so—enjoy! You can reproduce this material, provided the copies are complete, including this copyright note, and circulated free of charge. © 2017 Marvin J. Martin