

If you are a new member, you could be forgiven for wondering why we always start meetings by reciting The Four Way Test.

Given that Rotary is a worldwide organization, The Four Way Test is a nonpartisan and nonsectarian ethical guide for Rotarians to use for their personal and professional relationships. In other words, it acts as a moral compass.

The Four Way Test has been translated into more than 100 languages so that Rotarians worldwide can begin their meetings by the reciting of this test.

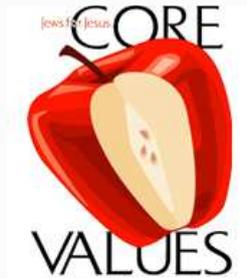


### Who created The Four Way Test?

It was created by Herbert J Taylor in 1932 (during the depths of the depression) when he was President of the Club Aluminum Company. Facing bankruptcy, the 24 words were written by Taylor as a guide to convince all employees of the American company to do the right thing in every situation. As a result, Taylor believed (and was proved resoundingly correct 5 years later) that this would result in obtaining more sales over their competitors.

## When was it adopted by Rotary?

In 1943, Rotary International adopted the test. Taylor was to become RI president himself in 1954.



Taylor was not only a person of action, but also a person of strong faith.

Regardless of whether you hold dearly to a strong faith or not, we are all expected as Rotarians today to have high moral principles. The Four Way Test is very helpful in our lives as it can be used as a prescription (or a golden rule) with everything we say or do.

Personally, I like the very brief description of the Four Way Test as: a short measuring stick of ethics.



In Japan today, they have their own unique version:

***Is it the TRUTH, and never a LIE?***

***Is it FAIR to all concerned, and not UNFAIR to anyone?***

***Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS, and NO ENEMIES?***

***Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned, and NOT HARMFUL to anyone?***