

Ronald Fisher  
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Thank you for sharing  
with the class - wise and generous

What follows is advice to my children and grandchildren, giving my ideas on how to live a good life.

1. Hillel was a Jewish spiritual leader contemporary with Jesus. He taught: If I am not for myself, who am I? If I am only for myself, what am I?, and If not now, when? This means, first, that we should develop and exercise our own individual G-d given talents. Second, We are also members of families, extended families, religious and ethnic groups, countries, of the human race, and inhabitants of the planet earth. To this progression of entities, we owe loyalty and responsibility.

2. Truth is a man's highest ideal. Knowing the truth means seeing the whole picture, in both space and time. That is, consider not only those arguments and aspects of an issue which benefit you, but see all sides, and the history of an issue or conflict, rather than just its present definition.

Be honest in personal dealings, and sincere and do not mislead others with lies and half-truths.

Truth is not relative, it is not effected by how many people hold an opinion or how important they are. Historical events are facts, and can be proven by written records and archeological evidence and logic.

3. Seek to amass wisdom and understanding, rather than goods and money, and do not hold those who are wealthy or powerful in great respect. Rather give respect to those with merit and talent.

4. Keep a cheerful, friendly attitude towards other people, and do not allow yourself to be obsessed with hate or resentment, which prevents you from enjoying life.

5. When things go wrong, attempt to correct them and do not be distracted in trying to assess blame.

6. Do not act in the heat of passion but do not suppress or inhibit what you feel strongly and deeply about. Do not be deterred from speaking out by fear that others will not like you.

7. Accept correction and reproof and do not let ideas of your superior merits stand in the way.

8. Do not seek out or savor ceremonies which honor you.

9. Try to be a peace maker and avoid conflict.

10. Associate, where possible, with people you trust and avoid dealing with those you do not trust or think well of.

11. Tohu va vohu. Be fruitful and multiply, and teach your family your values and be an example to others.