

# Pasquaney *archives*

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Do you believe in being kind to others? Have you ever stood silent when a person has been made fun of or been picked on?

Do you believe in friendship? Have you ever stood silent while others have made fun of a friend in front of you?

Do you believe in Pasquaney? Have you ever stood silent while others around you have undermined the values of Pasquaney?

Why?

Do we think that it is okay to make fun of other people? Do we not truly believe in friendship? Do we not believe in Pasquaney?

I am not here to tell you how to live your life. I am here to ask you to look at how you live your life. Examine it. Look at the rules you live by.

Who makes the rules you live by? Do you live by the rules of your social group? Or by a set of rules that you have come up with for yourself? If you cannot think of any specific rules you have for your life it might mean that you do not have any.

What's your policy on making fun of other people? Is it okay? If so, when? When is it not okay? Do you act according to those beliefs?

Is it ever okay to allow others to make fun of friends behind their back? If so when? Do you go and tell your friend afterwards or do you keep silent?

Is it okay to steal? Do you believe in honesty?

I will not stand here and tell you what your rules should be. I simply urge you to make some rules. If you have rules for yourself it will be easier for you to know how you are acting according to your values.

Have you made rules for yourself, or do you simply follow those given to you? "Stop and Think." That's camp's rule. All of us are told to live by it each summer. But is that the only rule that you live by during the summer? Or do you have others?

I used to struggle when I saw somebody stealing. My policy is that stealing is wrong. I won't do it and won't stand by while others do it either. My rule on stealing has been tested a lot since it was made. And, as I have grown, my policy has been tried, and repeated. When my policy was younger, I struggled to always take action when I witnessed stealing. Now, I am confident with my policy. I do not steal. I do not support others that steal.

I struggle when others are talking about a friend behind his or her back. My policy is that I should either stand up for my friend or walk away. I should tell my friend about the situation once it has happened. That is my policy. Before I made this rule I had always believed that I should stand up for friends. Yet I had never made a

deal with myself to not stand silent when my friends needed to be stood up for. I failed my friends a lot because I would rationalize that I didn't need to stand up for them for one reason or another.

A little while ago, I decided that I would not stand silent when my friends are being talked about behind their back. I have failed at implementing this policy numerous times. I am not as strong of an individual as I would like to be. But each time I say, "Hey, he's my friend," or try to put an end to a conversation about a friend, I feel good about myself, and I become stronger and have more confidence in my policy.

And each time I fail, each time I let a friend down, I grow weary of it, and am willing to tolerate it less and less. I will continue to get better at being a good friend. I know my friends will appreciate it.

The thing about having firm rules and policies for dealing with situations is that it makes reactions to situations a bit simpler. Either you believe in standing up for your friend or you don't. Either you believe in supporting stealing or you don't.

How many of you believe in your ability to use good judgment? How many of you believe that you can be responsible?

I believe that I make good judgments and that I am responsible most of the time. If I trust my judgment and feel that I am responsible, then why do I have to have concrete rules for myself? Rules force you to confront tough situations. Without rules, you will be able to side-step tough situations by rationalizing them in your head.

"It's okay that I am talking about Tim behind his back because he really is a terrible counsellor."

"Wal-mart is a huge, evil corporation. They don't need this candy bar."

"It's okay to make fun of Mike because everybody else is doing it and he doesn't seem to mind, and it is funny."

I urge you all to make rules for yourselves because they will help you make decisions. They will help you become better people, they will help you learn who you are, and they will help you learn who you want to be. You will have to live with yourself for every day for the rest of your life. Many people have lived entire lives by other people's rules. We have the freedom to make our own. Why settle for other people's rules when you can live by your own? Let your rules be a reflection of who you would like to be.

Do you want to be a liar? Do you want to be a good friend? Do you want to be an honest person? Do you want to be a thief? Answer these questions and let your actions be your voice. Make rules that you can turn to when a tough decision is on the line.

Make the rules for your life. Take advantage of the freedom that you are lucky to have and live by your own terms.