

Passing the Exam

Dr. Madison Sarratt taught mathematics at Vanderbilt University for many years. Before giving a test, the professor would admonish his class something like this: "Today I am giving two examinations – one in trigonometry and the other in honesty. I hope you will pass them both. If you must fail one, fail trigonometry. There are many good people in the world who can't pass trig, but there are no good people in the world who cannot pass the examination of honesty."

In many ways, all of us are taking the test of truthfulness each day. For instance, what do we do at the checkout counter when the clerk gives us too much change by mistake? It's so easy to say nothing. Besides, it's the cashier's error, not ours!

And what about our conversation with others? We may be tempted to color the facts or express half-truths to protect ourselves or to make a good impression.

Our integrity is constantly being tested. How do we score? Do we pass the exam?

No one will know you are honest unless you give out samples.

--Beecher Hunter