

## WHAT HONESTY MEANS TO ME

## SHIRLEY:

You might think it sounds rather strange if I tell you that I can't remember ever telling a lie—but it's the truth! I learned from my parents while I was still a child that it never pays to lie.

You see, my parents never lied to me, they never hid the truth and they were always open and sincere in their beliefs. I didn't have any brothers or sisters, and since I was much of a loner as a child I just never learned to lie!

Perhaps one reason was because I was an only child. I never felt the need to lie because I was secure and I really didn't have any competition!

## SAY NOTHING

I think that truth and honesty are the most important things in life. I suppose if the truth is going to cause someone great mental anguish or even physical pain it might be wise to simply say nothing or maybe exaggerate a little.

But I'm a big advocate of the truth and I never believed that a lie can help. I always had a big thing about not wanting to pay the consequences for a lie. I felt that in the long run a lie would catch up with me and I didn't want to have to wait 3 or 4 weeks or months to face it.

Of course there were times when a simple lie might have saved me from a spanking or a "talking to," but I felt the punishment would be

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