

## CONSISTENCY

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Just a few words about consistency. We all like to think we are being consistent in our thoughts and values. But we aren't. Why? No reason, other than being human.

Take any person on the street and ask them for three ideals or principles which define them. Actually, forget the person on the street. Ask yourself.

Write them down.

Now review the last couple weeks or months and find out how many times you have compromised these ideals.

Here's what happens. People say they stand for something, but then that Ideal gets in the way of something they want. Or something they want to avoid. All of a sudden, the ideal is abandoned and we start to justify and rationalize our action or choice. We claim to hold to the ideal, but act differently. Very transparent.

This is not a criticism. What it means is that the ideals a person may profess just might not be the ones they actually value or live by. It may mean that the ideals need to change or that we need to develop better self discipline.

With that as a backdrop, I can tell you that my philosophy is pretty well set. Oh, yeah. I forgot. A Philosophy is really not much more than a set of ideals and principles all put together.

The real challenge is that once a set of ideals or philosophy is adopted, can we live with it? Being idealistic doesn't mean to have your head in the sky or look at life with rose-colored glasses. That's how people who can't resolve the conflict explain things.

"Oh, don't be an idealist."

I say, "Au contraire! Go ahead and BE an idealist! We need them.

But be aware, having ideals and a philosophy means making hard choices about gray issues. But it also means being consistent. Being able to pursue your ideals without sacrificing your ethics or making excuses for yourself.

The real beauty of making the commitment to being an *Idealist*, to being consistent, is that it forces us to say no (or yes) to hard choices in gray areas of issues; and *THAT* forces us to be creative and solve the problem in a new way which does not sacrifice our ideals.

This essay was written prior to my decision to seek elected office but by law must contain the following notice:  
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