

**Caring, trustworthiness
and peaceful humor
can be mutually pleasant.**

Jeff Setterholm

February 17th, 2009
revised

version 1.0 February 28th, 2009



What better place to think?

The Philosophy Works®
Lakeville, Minnesota, USA

In the first round, the claim was **"Caring excels living."**

The claim partially resolved several puzzles that I have spent a long time thinking about. Hence, in my mind, the claim had synergy. High on the puzzle list has been: "Why was being at my Dad's Family's homestead in Northern Minnesota so pleasant?" A partial answer is that Dad's family treated all the people who came to visit with respect, kindness, and hospitality. Desire is the motivating force of human life; a significant fraction of constructive human interaction traditionally falls within the label: "caring".

In this round, the claim is modified to:

"Caring, trustworthiness, and peaceful humor can be mutually pleasant."

The claim comes closer to resolving a wider set of my puzzles. I know that if I had to choose between being trusted and being loved, I would take being trusted in a heartbeat. My sense is that "acceptance" is a key component of human happiness... and that anyone who feels "not trusted" will not feel entirely accepted - unless, of course, the person has not previously experienced what it is like to be trusted. Being worthy of trust is the challenge.

What is "trustworthiness"?

The 1966 Webster's unabridged : *The quality of being trustworthy.*

"trustworthy" - *worthy of trust or confidence; dependable; reliable.*

"trust" - *1. confidence; a reliance or resting of the mind on the integrity, veracity, justice, friendship, **or** other sound principle of another person **or** thing.*

The shotgun definitions of social English words serve humanity as poorly as they serve scoundrels well... so I'll take a shot at version 0.1 ... and let a committee do better later:

"Trustworthy" - version 0.1: An adjective describing a person who manifests the energy, will, and skill to both avoid catastrophes and achieve benefits for another person or a group of people at no unfair cost to society, preferably at no cost to society.

The folks in Northern Minnesota could pull a really good laugh, seemingly, out of thin air.

Revisiting the claim has cut-in-half my assessment of the profoundness of one-line observations - including this one. Every such claim implicitly "knocks a lot of other stuff off the table"; in my view, synergistic, transparent, multi-dimensional models have far more to offer. Still, candidate "pieces of the puzzle" can be interesting to consider; as John Gall wrote in *Systemantics*: ~"Large systems that work invariably grew from smaller systems that worked." My best shot at a model follows. www.setterholm.com offers clarification.

A world view.

"Understanding":

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1) accounts for past experience | 3) predicts future experience |
| 2) clarifies present experiences | 4) grasps bounds |
| | 5) can be communicated. |

OBJECTIVES:

- To create a usable collection of understandings that will help humanity live peaceful, productive, happy, and (optionally) exciting lives, while enjoying religious freedom.
- To make the understandings accessible and free to people around the globe.

BOUNDS:

- Origins of faiths are fundamental (beyond reason).
- Language is insubstantial, but can be very useful.
- Human cognition (*brainspace*) is limited.
- Hidden dimensions of secrecy do more harm than good.
- Self-restraint is essential.

APPROACH:

Organize understanding.

- Combine the understandings of many people.
- Seek simplicity, brevity, clarity, resilience, and synergy
- Use committees to define words.
- Characterize benefits and risks.
- Anticipate scoundrels.
- Explore better ways of teaching.
- Evolve self-sustaining standards.

Encourage improvement.

- Foster shared thinking.
- Employ understandings as filters.
- Experiment and simulate.
- Shape dimensions and question limits.
- Consider life-cycle issues.
- Be patient.
- Create useful attitudes.

Strive for integrity.

- Avoid intentional hiding of assumptions, goals, and ignorance.
- Respect individual right to a viewpoint.
- Consider dissenting views.
- Acknowledge contributors adequately.

*Translations by: Precision Language Services

© 2004 by Jeffrey M. Setterholm. **The Philosophy Works®**

"LTDW20.pdf" may be reproduced and printed in its entirety without permission.