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# AN OPEN MIND

We often hear someone say: "I have an open mind on that question". This usually means he is prepared to listen to all sides of the argument before coming to a final conclusion. It means he is prepared to change his mind if new facts or new reasons come to hand. This is an admirable attitude.

The "open mind" is the exact opposite of the "closed mind". A person with an open mind does not pretend to know "all the answers", but the person with the closed mind has rigid views which he is not prepared to alter under any circumstances. All the evidence in the world would not cause him to change his opinion one bit.

A person with a closed mind is contemptuous of the ideas of others. He is arrogant because he takes the stand that "I know best, no matter what others say". He is so convinced he is right that he would willingly censor ideas with which he does not agree. In reality he is narrow-minded without the wisdom and desire to see the other person's point of view.

Because he is so set in his views he never learns. The person with the open mind on the other hand is adding to his knowledge all the time. He is free from prejudice and other "mind-closing" habits, and is not one-eyed. He welcomes the correction of errors and the establishment of truth no matter the source from which it comes.

Quite often the narrow-minded person preaches of tolerance and the desire to see the other fellow's point of view and expect it to be a one-way traffic only, because he cannot see the wrong in his own thinking. The all-important thing in life is to establish in one's mind an ethical code as a criterion for one's own and the other fellow's ideas.

—W.R.