

Quaker Family Culture

Queries for Young Friends and Their Parents

Integrity and Personal Conduct

Parents:

- Do you practice "careful speech"? Do you keep the promises you make?
- Do you "walk your talk" so that the activities of your life show forth your values?
- Do you treat people with the same respect and genuine regard when they are present or absent?
- Do you work to possess an inner wholeness so that you have one set of ethics and expectations for all people?
- Do you avoid the temptation to misrepresent a situation? Do you uphold a high standard of truthfulness that requires not only a technical truthfulness but a forthrightness and an avoidance of misrepresentation?
- Do you gently and patiently accept the negative social consequences of speaking your truth?

Teens:

- Do you act from the same values and loyalties no matter what the social situation?
- Do you try to tell the full truth and not shade or conceal the truth?
- Can you follow the Native American recommendation that your head, your mouth, and your heart are all in a straight line?

Home and Family

Parents:

- Do you weave the elements of Quaker worship and practice into your home life?
- Do you reserve time in order to bask in the company of your family?
- Do you take time to listen and create opportunities for teens to open up and speak about important things?
- Is your home a welcoming place for your teens and their friends?
- Do you ask enough questions to know your teens are safe and have back up plans in place if things go awry?
- Do you apologize when you feel your judgment or behavior has fallen short?

Teens:

- Do you find ways to share your life with your family through shared interests, activities, or one-on-one dates like going out for lunch together?
- Do you work through disagreements peacefully?
- Do you help to build a joyful, affirming family culture?

Beth Collea, 2021, 