

cautiousness:

knowing how important right timing is in accomplishing right actions

look before you leap!

Cautiousness n. 1: giving forethought to avoid harm 2: showing or practicing caution 3: carefulness

Cautiousness is wisdom and patience applied to initiative. It is identifying the right thing to be done (wisdom) and the right timing to do it (patience), and with these in place, acting with confidence (initiative).

Cautiousness is often associated with slowing down, though it really has nothing to do with speed. It has more to do with the amount of information you gather and process before taking action. Cautiousness may be facilitated by slowing your pace, but speed is not at issue. Cautiousness is

gathering the necessary information to make an intelligent decision.

The best cautions are precautions. If you can look ahead and anticipate problems before they occur, taking precautionary measures to guard against or completely defuse them, the time and effort you expend on cautiousness will more than pay for itself.

One who is cautious seeks right timing to accomplish right actions. A cautious person is alert to possible problems and is always on the lookout for ways to avoid them. He or she is heedful of risks, wary of dangers, and careful to establish safeguards that ensure ultimate success.

“No one tests the depth of a river with both feet.”

–African Proverb

“A little wariness prevents great weariness.”

–Unknown

“They who are cautious and humble make but few slips.”

–Confucius (c. 500 B.C.)

“He who turns to look a second time will lose nothing.”

–Chinese Proverb

cautiousness vs. rashness

Cautiousness is:

- Thinking before you act.
- Following safety rules.
 - Asking permission.
- Talking at the right time.
- Looking out for danger.

be aware of your surroundings!



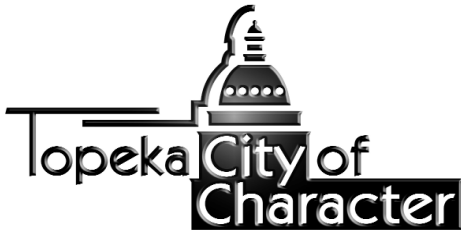
Cautiousness is similar to a yellow traffic light. It is not a directive to stop. Sometimes, you do not even need to slow down. The quality of cautiousness is an awareness of where and when you are most vulnerable. It is like the yellow caution light that marks the place where you are liable to cross paths with traffic and the time when other cars are likely to approach from other directions.

The cautious look ahead and respond appropriately. Carefully consider each move in order to protect yourself and others.

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Topeka City of Character April 2007

From the Executive Director:

Safe Streets Coalition has a major goal for the City of Topeka, to become the safest Capital City with a population over 100,000. This goal has been enthusiastically embraced by Mayor Bunten, City Manager Norton Bonaparte, Police Chief Ron Miller, District Attorney Ron Hecht and Sheriff Dick Barta. It is a lofty goal, but certainly attainable with the help of the citizens of Topeka and Shawnee County. As citizens we must take "Responsibility" for keeping Topeka safe. Exercising the character quality, "Cautiousness" should help us achieve this goal. Police Chief Ron Miller states that to reduce thefts, we need to consistently lock our car doors and our homes. We also need to make sure we don't leave valuables in our cars. Safe Streets Coalition holds regular neighbor-

hood watch meetings for different areas in Topeka. Find out how you can be involved in crime prevention in your neighborhood. Make yourself "Available" by attending neighborhood watch meetings or Citizen Patrol training. Then be "Attentive" in your neighborhood and report criminal activity to police and sheriff officers. This effort will take lots of "Determination" and "Initiative" to be successful. We all share in a common desire to be safe at work, at home and at play. We think Topekans have the character qualities to make it happen. For more information, contact Judy Wilson at Safe Streets, 266-4606.

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For your sponsorship, you will receive advertising opportunities on billboards, 40,000 word of the month posters, and a newsletter recognition.

For more information contact Cindy Patton at 233-3699!

Good character is the key to success!