

flexibility:

willingness to change plans or ideas without getting upset

bend or break!

Flexibility *n.* 1: the ability to make needed adjustments 2: the capability of responding to change 3: a disposition of openness to new instructions 4: adaptability

Flexibility is the strength to flourish in a changing environment. The nature of Flexibility is obedience to new directions even though the old ones may seem more favorable.

Change is one of the most dreaded experiences people encounter, yet one of the most valuable. Comfortable patterns, familiar surroundings, and secure environments all are hard to change, yet without such change people are unable to expand their horizons.

Flexibility helps people hold on to things that don't change and let go of things that do change. With Flexibility comes security. It helps people to look beyond the fear of change to see its value. Flexible people react automatically to changing plans and accept it as an important part of life. They "see the bigger picture" - which enables them to respond to transitions sensibly, rather than emotionally.

Leaders must often tell others that plans have changed. Taking just a moment to express concern for the sacrifice others may have to make in order to accommodate the change goes a long way toward helping others to be flexible.

"The world hates change, yet it is the only thing that has brought progress."

-Charles F. Kettering

"Change is not made without inconvenience, even from worse to better."

-Richard Hooker

"Change, indeed is painful, yet ever needful."

-Thomas Carlyle

adapt to new conditions



Flexibility is overcoming one's own natural tendency to resist change. It is honoring the right of those in authority to make changes within their jurisdictions. It is making the most of those changes in life that cannot be controlled.

Flexibility is learning to be as equipped as possible for both the good opportunities and the unfortunate changes that tomorrow might bring. Flexibility is also rebuilding wisely when unwelcome changes occur.

Flexibility is a recognition that changes will come and are not always as bad as they may seem.

flexibility vs. resistance

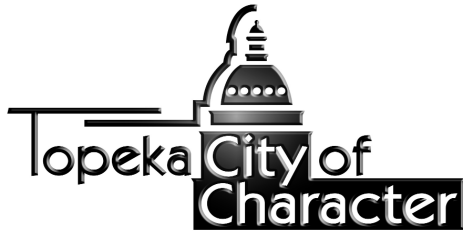
Flexibility is:

- Not getting upset when plans change.
- Respecting the decisions of your authorities.
- Not being stubborn.
- Looking for the good in changes.
- Not compromising what is right.

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From the Executive Director:

Some of you may have noticed the changes to the backs of the posters that are placed in school classrooms and distributed in the Topeka Capital Journal the first Tuesday of each month. They offer some suggestions for incorporating the character quality of the month into our lives and also ask, "What do you think?" The representatives from many different sectors who serve on our Character Council appreciate input from the community with regard to the character words. Several people in the community have expressed some concern with the emphasis on following authority. You

may be interested to know that through discussions with the Character First! Organization in Oklahoma City, some definitions have been changed. We hope that the definitions become a great starting point for community discussions of the importance of good character and how best to become a community of good character. So tell us, what do you think?

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A new year has begun and with it come many new sponsorship opportunities! Our 3rd annual Family Character Fair At the Topeka Zoo will be on Saturday, April 21st this year from 10am to 4pm.

If you are interested in being a sponsor for this annual fun community event for families, please contact Cindy Patton at Topeka City of Character, (785)233-3699, E-mail, tcoc@sbcglobal.net, or mail to 700 SW Jackson, Ste. 807, Topeka, KS 66603.

We will also be needing prize donations.

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Good character is the key to success!