

In and of ourselves
we trust essay



Mr. Rooney seems to have an awful lot of faith in people and he bases much of that faith in people by looking at himself and what he did in this particular situation. We do not know exactly why he was headed to Lewisburg or if he even really wanted to get there on time. He was meeting with a group there we are told, but maybe this was not a group with whom Mr. Rooney was particularly anxious to meet. There is a possibility that even he didn't realize any lack of enthusiasm on his part to meet with whatever group was awaiting him there.

It would seem to me if he did have an avid interest in meeting with them then he would have prepared to leave ahead of schedule to ensure his timely arrival. Although he was speeding so it looked like he wanted to get there on time, maybe he is a person that has a heavy foot on the gas normally anyway. It also just doesn't make sense that he would break the law by speeding and not think much of that, yet when confronted with a traffic signal he all of a sudden becomes the dutiful and honest citizen and stops for the light.

If he were really a trustworthy individual, according to his account of what he implies is trustworthy, he would not have been speeding in the first place. Upon further reflection, after his meeting, he says that he thinks he stopped just because it is the acceptable norm and we all sort of abide by these kinds of rules because of a sort of tacit agreement we have. Once again, if that were the case, then indeed, why did this not also apply to speeding? He then goes on to say that " trust [rather than mistrust]is our first inclination.

Actually, I think it is quite the other way around. People usually have to earn our trust before we trust them. As nice as it would be to think like he does, if most people thought that way, we would probably see a lot of wallets lying around in public places, people would not spend so much on security devices and locks for their homes and cars, and children would be allowed to roam unsupervised farther from their homes. As far as the IRS issue he brings up to make his point, I think he once again fails here.

The IRS does a whole lot more than just “ make some gestures toward enforcing the law...” The only reason many people pay their income taxes is because they are downright scared of the consequences of not paying. Who hasn't heard of the atrocious stories of the IRS repossessing everything someone owns leaving them homeless and penniless? “ We do what we we say we'll do,” he goes on to say. All one needs to do is listen to politicians during campaign time to know that the American way is to say one thing while it is and because it is appealing and then do just he opposite when it suits them.

I think Mr. Rooney read far too much into the issue of trust stopping for that red light, and as I said, I think he also may not have read enough into the real reason he stopped for the light and the real reason he was late in the first place. Perhaps if he could really trust himself he would have faced the truth about possibly not wanting to meet with those people in Lewisburg. Most of the time Andy Rooney is on target with his stories and I enjoy them very much, but in this case, he missed the mark entirely.