

What is 'Morality?'

- Morality is "what people actually do" with regard to right/ wrong and good / bad.

Everyone has a 'moral code' - accepting some moral values, beliefs, principles, judgments, actions, and rejecting others.

Everyone regards some values, some desired goals / states of affairs / consequences to be desirable or 'good.'

Everyone regards other states of affairs / consequences to be undesirable or 'bad.'

Everyone has beliefs with regard to good and bad, right and wrong.

Everyone regards some actions as 'right' or "to be done."

Everyone regards other actions as 'wrong' or "not to be done."

Everyone acts in accord with moral some principle(s) and everyone makes moral judgments in accord with their beliefs, values and principles.

What is 'Ethics?'

- 'Ethics' is *philosophical* morality or 'moral philosophy.'

But wait, what is 'Philosophy?'

- 'Philosophy' is:

- 1) literally and etymologically: "the love of wisdom."
- 2) following the example of Socrates (469 - 399 b.c.e.), "examined living."
- 3) According to Ed Miller: "... the attempt to think rationally and critically about life's most important issues."
- 4) according to S.E. Stumpf and D. Abel: "... sustained reflection on the ultimate questions of life, resulting in deeper understanding and personal transformation."
- 5) according to Michael Novak, a matter of 'intelligent subjectivity.'

So, 'Ethics' is:

- 1) 'the love of moral wisdom.'
- 2) 'examined morality.'
- 3) "... the attempt to think rationally and critically about moral issues."
- 4) "... sustained reflection on moral questions of life, bringing deeper moral understanding and personal transformation."
- 5) 'intelligent moral subjectivity (individuality / personhood).'

Why do we have morality and why do we need ethics?

- Because my / your / our actions have the capacity to benefit or harm OTHERS.
- Because my actions can benefit / harm ME and your actions can benefit / harm YOU.