

‘Morality’ / moral and ‘Ethics’ / ethical:

1. Synonyms?
2. ‘Morality’ = Practices vs. ‘Ethics’ = Reflection?

What is ‘Ethics’?

1. “The love of wisdom” in our moral beliefs, values, judgments, and practices
2. ‘Examined morality’: examined beliefs, values, judgments, practices / codes
3. ‘Intelligent [moral] subjectivity’ (Michael Novak)
4. “Thinking about our morality-thinking.”
5. ‘The attempt to think rationally and critically about [moral issues] / life’s most important issues” (Ed Miller)
6. “Sustained reflection on [moral issues] / life’s ultimate questions, bringing deeper understanding and personal transformation” (Stumpf & Abel)
7. Attentiveness, Intelligence, Rationality, and Responsibility in one’s moral beliefs, values, judgments, and practices (Lonergan)
8. “Doing what one has the best reasons for doing.” (Rachels’ ‘minimal conception’)

**Every person has a moral code= moral beliefs, values, judgments, and practices*

***Not every person has a wise, examined, intelligent, rational-critical, deeply understood, attentive-intelligent-rational-responsible , ‘best reasons’ moral code (Example: ‘Smiley’ in the movie ‘Training Day’)*

‘Ethics’ includes:

1. **Meta-Ethics**
= “background / foundation questions” about the nature and status of moral concepts and judgments
2. **Descriptive Ethics**
= what people actually believe, value, judge, and do / **Moral Codes** people live by
3. **Normative Ethics**
= what people ought to believe, value, judge and do – and Why!! (**Moral Theories**)
4. **Applied Ethics**
= applying moral theories / principles to specific moral issues
(ex. war, capital punishment, abortion, cloning, etc.)
5. **Professional Ethics (?)**
= ethics of persons in the professions (law, medicine, science, etc.)

‘Moralism’: Every action-decision in one’s life is viewed as having major ethical importance.
Issues are viewed in black vs. white / absolutistic terms. Focus is on a narrow range of issues
(ex. sex, drinking, etc.)