

Heart of Moral Philosophy
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In the late 1800's a group of philosophers got together to discuss how people think?

How do you think about ideas?

Classified themselves as analytical philosophers.

They broke the rule by breaking their rule and merged with historians, sociologists, politicians—is there anything common of how cultures think of ideas of right and wrong?

Huge proliferation of churches and groups in the late 1800's.

After 30-40 years of study, they centered upon 4 principles that were the heart and soul of human thought, across human culture, etc.

The Fundamental Principles of Human Dignity and Worth

Do you think these are complete for over these 100 years?

Take these ideas to level of principles from rules and regulations.

What are all these rules and how do we make sense of them?

What is it that is common and how can you cross time and place.

We need to put names to these obvious principles:

1. Every human being needs an element of privacy.

Without privacy they feel less than human or dignified.

Sometimes privacy is shown as to how you show affection in public.

Karen Graham's salary was published in the chronicle of higher education—the colleagues at Andrews school of education gave her the cold shoulder. For people to know it was very undignified. Felt distance with the other professors.

You can guarantee that privacy is so important to various cultures.

The only way to overcome global diversity and pluralism is to go back to the level of principle.

A conversation must occur across community where an agreement happens with common values in divergent groups.

Try to go to what those rules represent in dialogue with diverse peoples.

When you make a decision that impacts the life of another human being, remember that privacy is involved here.

To acknowledge it is a sign of respect.

This principle happened to me in Thailand while working with young people in gymnastics and placing students over my head and especially young gals—I was violating their culture and space. I heard about it thru the students that talked to the principal.

You can acknowledge the need for privacy without divulging the private issues.

Fundamental human need becomes the dialogue—conversation that avoids defensiveness.

When we respect a fundamental human need it dissipates it psychologically.

Reminds me of the time in Central Thailand when I took a shower with a bucket on the front porch of a home wide open to the elements.

Phone numbers and e-mail privacies bothers me immensely.

What's changing over time:

Code of Ethics can change with time and culture, but principles do not change.

Important to know that we won't always agree, but keep talking and dialogue.

Conditions of well-being: privacy is one fundamental principle.

Acknowledge that you have rubbed up against this problem.

2. Autonomy

Some call this freedom, but philosophers do not.
Philosophers say there is no freedom without some constraints.

Having a say or choice in my life can make a difference.

I have some control in my life.

Every human being needs self-dignity and direction.

The moment someone becomes an instrument of someone else's purpose, they lose dignity and respect.

Only two institutions in the Western World that operate under these conditions: school and prison.

When you do something wrong, you have to do more of it.
If you don't do well in school, you have to stay longer.
If you mess up in prison, you must extend your term.

i.e. What hour are you going to hold church?

Not that you should preserve personal choices at any cost.
But, what were the compelling reasons for your actions?

In this moral realm, who is more human than someone else?
Are you fully human?
Do we treat a 2-year old the same as we treat a 20-year old?
The same with someone with Alzheimers.

What's the difference of between 2-year old and 20-year old behavior?

If you can make your thinking transparent, you will help the others understand.

Can you explain it?

This moral negotiation does have end points...

What in your life do you want to make choices about?
What I eat. Who I marry? What I believe?

God made you to need autonomy, but gives you the best path desired.

These principles tend to contradict one another.

Stan suggests it is valuable to give folks an area of autonomy and trust them to operate within...

Excellent exercise to open your boundaries and explain why you set those lines of constraints.

Choices were I can lead my own future and profession.

How many times to you make decisions that affect the choices folks have?

Admit from a hiring/employer standpoint that you are putting a constraint...

At what point would you invade someone's privacy with autonomy?

Karen talked about going to the State Fair with her kids...

She ended up meeting a mother with quintuplets—asking the mom if she wanted Karen to help with one of her children.

Nothing convinced the mom to release one of her children.

So, the higher principle always outweighs the issue.

3. Community

Every human being at some point in their lives, they need community, acceptance, belong, and social connection.

In most societies the predominant discipline is ostracism.
The way to degrade their humanness is to disbar, disfellowship, put out.

Every human being needs to belong to a group.

Church, family, this class, country, gender,

As soon as you form a community you are excluding others—you can't include everybody else.

A family is a good example.

This level demands that you work at the level of a principle.

You'll find commitment, compassion, loyalty, pride, and acceptance.

This causes internal angst because the moment you do the above, you exclude others.

This brings so many moral dilemmas.

Most likely the troubled, rebellious person has some moral dilemma facing them.

Should you protect every community—but when you do make decisions that affect them, communicate to them the tough situation.

i.e. The American school system got their model from Henry Ford—we move them thru on a time scale that is ours not theirs.

We call these assigned classrooms communities.

When you affect the community—acknowledge that you are rubbing up against a painful process. Just walk thru the difficulty and underline the reasons/principles.

You develop the capacity for the person to walk thru their difficulty.
If you don't, you'll have a compliant or angry person, but no self-continuity and learning.

Homework: Write down 3 sentences that describe 3 decisions that you have made in the past month that have significantly impacted others.

Bring them with you.

1. My wife has been impacted by my journey with ChMn747 in Lincoln, NE.
2. My church has been impacted by my journey to Lincoln; since they have faced several funerals without me.
3. Our church Bible worker has been impacted by my absence, covering the classes, sermon schedule, and visitation that I would normally do.

Acting ethically as a leader is not merely keeping a set of rules, but is building a foundation of respecting human beings.

Therefore, this model on ethics, is not a study of the rules of professional leadership.

It is more a foundational study of the decision-making process required of a leader when certain situations demand special thinking.

How similar do I have to be to be a member of the group?

Karen, asked to be a member of a subgroup at her university.

But this subcommittee is driven to be a diverse ideological community.

The question becomes: At what point are you willing to allow for differences?

To accept or assimilate all differences is to go against what I avow.

Toleration and allegiance.

Probe and see if the value is at the ethics level or principle level.

Dialogue is the important connector: the conversation to determine whether the issue is rules/ethics or principles.

4. Identity

Identity is what makes you unique from everybody else.

We want to remember them forever—something is unique about them.

Rain forest tribe in Brazil—Yan Amamo

Burn the body, take powder and mix with male urine and drink.

Incredibly different behavior but based upon the same principle: want to internalized and keep alive the respect of that person's life.

The uniqueness of that person need to be preserved.

Karen and her brother Larry could not agree on the method of burial, until the grandchildren joined them in talking about the stories of their dad and granddad.

Karen and her brother decided to bury their dad above ground in a vault.

Earl speaks of his son, mother, etc. He doesn't need a marker for these relatives; because He is confident that God knows where they are.

We have a common need to remember.

Health message—how do you treat yourself? Self-respect

A man named Tom Green named a judgment model.

You can't know all of the contexts and we make the best judgment...

A judgment is a specific kind of animal.

On the spectrum are those thing we know for sure and on the other end are those things we guess at.

In the middle is a condition of ambiguity where there is some degree of unknown circumstances—he calls those judgments.

He careful because he states that we enter into discussion with human beings with too much certainty—dialogue is required.

Carries with it a responsibility: making judgment about others that significantly impact others' lives; thus we desperately

Level 1 obey

Level 2 do as I say

Level 3 gain understanding

Judgment includes beliefs, theories, facts, data, and empirical data

Communication is the key in this process.

Dialogue is called for in order to see obeyers become those who understand for themselves.

Efficiency isn't always the best measure of success. You may have been efficient, but you may have not been a communicative agent.

Time isn't the absolute of success for the best or worst decision.

It's whether the folks involved have been growing in the process.

Tom Green says we are just beginning when you have identified the reasons.

Notice it requires the genuineness of listening.

Record reasons, such as Phil dialoguing with his son is important.

The exercise of giving the no answer is just as important as giving the yes answer.

Expand your horizons.

No conclusion or evaluation drawn here.

Take out the certainty of the decision, but not the conviction.

Not the number of reasons you have here, but the weight of the decisions.

How do you get to the weight of the decisions?

Use some tools to get to the values, employ them in the process of moral negotiation.

How do you make a difference in principles and values.

Probe now the reasons to determine where they are in this conundrum of reasons.

After you have collected the reasons and probed them for values, privacy or identity or community issues come up, investigate the reasons prior to a judgment.

Unless you have a genuine interest in helping them thru the dilemma, they are not going to reveal themselves.

It becomes a matter of weighing the reasons.

Weighing the evidence can be measured.

Respect for the persons you're deciding against.

Some are being impacted with privacy and the other outweighs due to safety and health.

Choose your words carefully rather than becoming defensive.

Situation ethics: Yes situations do change with the rules and regulations, but not at the level of principles.

3 levels of decision making

1. Being a good moral decision maker
2. I make decisions about other people's decisions
3. Whether I develop the capacity of others to walk thru decisions themselves.