

“Morality”

Morality is a reflection of ethics, a reflection of absolute truth or relative truth depending on your point of view, a set of principles of right conduct, and the rules or standards governing the conduct of a person or the members of a profession. The last phrase, the members of a profession, may have triggered something automatically in your mind. Yes, you do understand what morality is because you automatically thought of the medical profession and your mind possibly wandered to medical ethics and the Hippocratic Oath. Medical ethics are “the specific moral choices to be made by a person.” We know how that applies to this large group of people to whom we entrust our physical well being. But, does it apply to me individually is the question that many fail to want to deal with in their lives or their children’s lives because it requires serious decision making. This decision making always has an impact on ones life, the life of their children and their children’s children as well as the societies to which they belong.

Remember when you were growing up and your parents / guardian drew to your attention the difference between right and wrong behavior? I certainly do. I always wanted to yes sir, no sir / yes mam, no mam anyone and everyone I talked to even if my parents were not around. Good behavior meant addressing and responding to people a certain way and there was no room for compromise. As early as kindergarten I was encouraged to make the best decisions regarding behavior. I obviously rebelled at times and it was left up to the kindergarten teacher to let me know that my bad behavior was not acceptable and directed me toward better choices which led to better behavior. At this very early age I was introduced to morality and its implications to a society in which the best choices were always deemed the ones that others would appreciate. So, how did I learn so well most of the time and continued to learn about better moral choices even when I rebelled? Simple answer. Because I also was aware there were consequences to my choices. And I, as well as you, could easily describe some of those consequences that we endured when our choices were not of an acceptable behavior.

Moral choices begin at a very early age when mom and dad say yes or no. As time goes by we make many more choices in which others deem those choices good or bad. Hopefully, if deemed bad we change. If not, we do suffer consequences. As more time passes our parents continue to direct us in better decision making, better moral choices. Formal education eventually begins and others direct us in the same things our parents did at first but the level of choices becomes more complicated for the child. How can one make this level, differentiated by age because we do get older, less complicated? I suggest that parents continue to be parents and assume that primary role as decision maker and not pass it on to someone else. I have recently discovered that when one gets older it does not take away the responsibility of a parent to continue to have input and guidance in the life of their child. For me, this is an absolute truth.....parents must continue to be parents to their children. And as a parent we look for things that can assist us in dealing with the best advice that we give out children. Look to those who you deem as people who have good moral character. It may be a neighbor, a friend, your church affiliation, a book or.....and on and on.

As always, moral choices are left to a society and its people. As a member of a particular society please consider the moral choices that you make. Our children's lives are always affected and don't we as parents want our children and our society to reflect the best possible moral choices? Moral choices that have a foundation that come from people who reflect good moral character? I most definitely do because I fear the consequences to a society when this is not accomplished. A simple study of the past gives one many examples. Have you seen a Hittite lately?

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