

ETHICAL TYPES

When faced with making choices in response to Ethical Issues, or Ethical Questions, people traditionally respond in one of three (3) basic ways. Each of these three (3) ways is influenced by a person's experience, the communities they have lived in, and the way they have been raised. Because of the fact that people learn from their experiences, they can change their minds, and their approaches as to how they handle each ethical issue and question. These three (3) ways are relative to what a person sees as being important to them at the moment of the decision.

1 – Principled Conscience

A person is driven to do the right thing based on their **values** and **principles**. For example, Paul will not steal because he has been brought up to believe stealing is wrong.

Other applicable terms: **References – World View**

2 – Social Conscience

A person is driven to do the right thing because it is the **norm** dictated by society. For example, Gene will not steal because the majority of people don't steal and you will be looked down upon by others.

Other applicable terms: **Moral rule – Moral principle**

3 – Rule Compliance

A person will not steal because there are laws against such things. For example, Ace will not steal because it is against the law and he may face criminal charges.

Other applicable terms: **Ethical issues – Ethical question**

Depending on how a person responds to an Ethical Issue or Ethical Question, each of the three (3) ways listed above can be ranked in order of importance for that individual.

The order of importance of these terms will help define a person's Ethical Type.

ETHICAL TYPES DEFINED

PHILOSOPHER

The terms may be ranked in the following order - principled conscience, social conscience and rule compliance.

They believe that **moral principle** is the most important ethical perspective. Philosophers are good at solving difficult or complex dilemmas, but will break the rules if they believe a higher principle is at stake.

ANGEL

The terms may be ranked in the following order - social conscience, principled conscience and rule compliance.

Angels believe that being good to others is the most important moral perspective. They will break the rules if they believe a higher principle is at stake. They may give people the benefit of the doubt rather than stand up for a principle.

ENFORCER

The terms may be ranked in the following order - rule compliance, principled conscience and social conscience.

Enforcers are the people we rely on to make sure that everyone obeys the rules. However, they may seem to lack empathy for others.

JUDGE

The terms may be ranked in the following order - principled conscience, rule compliance and social conscience.

Like philosophers, judges believe that moral principle is the most important ethical perspective. They tend to be good at solving really challenging dilemmas, but could lack empathy with others.

TEACHER

The terms may be ranked in the following order - social conscience, rule compliance and principled conscience.

Teachers believe that doing what's right for humanity is the right thing to do, although they may decide to break the rules if they think they know what is best.

GUARDIAN

The terms may be ranked in the following order - rule compliance, social conscience and principled conscience.

Guardians believe that doing as we are told and following the letter of the law is best for all of us. They may fail to consider important principles, such as freedom and trust.

1. Religious commands are very important in my life.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral/undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

2. Selfishness is very important in my life.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral/undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

3. Showing respect for all persons is very important in my life.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral/undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

4. Considering the consequences for everyone is very important in my life.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral/undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

5. **Personal virtues are very important in my life.**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral/undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

6. **When people think that they are genuinely concerned about the welfare of others, they are just deceiving themselves.**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral/undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

7. **Everyone should watch out just for themselves.**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral/undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

8. **Women's moral voices are different from men's.**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral/undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

9. **Sexual harassment should be illegal.**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral/undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

10. **Genuine equality for women demands a restructuring of the traditional family.**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral/undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

11. **What is right depends on the culture you are in.**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral/undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

12. **It is hopeless to try to arrive at a final answer to ethical questions.**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral/undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

13. What is right depends on what God says is right.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral/undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

14. I do not care what motivates other people; I judge them solely on the basis of what they do.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral/undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

15. The right thing to do is whatever is best for everyone.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral/undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

16. If someone tries to do the right thing but it works out badly, they still deserve moral credit for trying.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral/undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

17. African Americans are still often discriminated against in employment.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral/undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

18. Racial separatism is wrong.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral/undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

19. We should encourage the development of racial and ethnic identity.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral/undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

20. Gays and lesbians should not be discriminated against in hiring or housing.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral/undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree