Understanding SLEEPER Terms

Ethics vs. Morals

Ethical is what a society considers to be good and OK whereas moral is a personal belief system that is at a much deeper level.

http://www.diffen.com/difference/Ethics_vs_Morals

Ethics and morals both relate to “right” and “wrong” conduct. However, ethics refer to the series of rules provided to an individual by an external source, e.g. their profession or religion. Morals refer to an individual’s own principles regarding right and wrong.

Source of Principles
Ethics are external standards, provided by the institutions, groups or culture to which an individual belongs. For example, lawyers, policemen and doctors all have to follow an ethical code laid down by their profession, regardless of their own feelings or preferences. Ethics can also be considered as a social system or a framework for acceptable behavior.

Morals may also be influenced by culture or society, but they are personal principles created and upheld by the individuals themselves.

Consistency and Flexibility
Ethics are very consistent within a certain context, but can vary greatly between contexts. For example, the ethics of the medical profession in the 21st century are generally consistent and do not change from hospital to hospital, but they are different from the ethics of the 21st century legal profession.

An individual’s moral code is usually unchanging and consistent across all contexts, but can change if the individual has a radical change in their personal beliefs and values.
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<th>What are they?</th>
<th>Ethics</th>
<th>Morals</th>
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<td></td>
<td>The rules of conduct recognized in respect to a particular class of</td>
<td>Principles or habits with respect to right or wrong conduct. While</td>
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<td>human actions or a particular group or culture.</td>
<td>morals also prescribe dos and don'ts, morality is ultimately a</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>personal compass of right and wrong.</td>
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<td>Where do they come from?</td>
<td>Social system - External</td>
<td>Individual - Internal</td>
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<td>Why we do it?</td>
<td>Because society says it is the right thing to do.</td>
<td>Because we believe in something being right or wrong.</td>
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<td>Flexibility</td>
<td>Ethics are dependent on others for definition. They tend to be</td>
<td>Usually consistent, although can change if an individual’s beliefs</td>
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<td>consistent within a certain context, but can vary between contexts.</td>
<td>change.</td>
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<td>The &quot;Gray&quot;</td>
<td>A person strictly following Ethical Principles may not have any</td>
<td>A Moral Person although perhaps bound by a higher covenant, may choose</td>
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<td>Morals at all. Likewise, one could violate Ethical Principles within a</td>
<td>to follow a code of ethics as it would apply to a system. &quot;Make it</td>
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<td>given system of rules in order to maintain Moral integrity.</td>
<td>fit&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Origin</td>
<td>Greek word &quot;ethos&quot; meaning &quot;character&quot;</td>
<td>Latin word &quot;mos&quot; meaning &quot;custom&quot;</td>
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<td>Acceptability</td>
<td>Ethics are governed by professional and legal guidelines within a</td>
<td>Morality transcends cultural norms</td>
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<td></td>
<td>particular time and place</td>
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What is the difference between Ethics and Morals?
http://www.wisegeek.org/what-is-the-difference-between-ethics-and-morals.htm

The difference between ethics and morals can seem somewhat arbitrary to many, but there is a basic, albeit subtle, difference. Morals define personal character, while ethics stress a social system in which those morals are applied. In other words, ethics point to standards or codes of behavior expected by the group to which the individual belongs. This could be national ethics, social ethics, company ethics, professional ethics, or even family ethics. So while a person’s moral code is usually unchanging, the ethics he or she practices can be other-dependent.

When considering the difference between ethics and morals, it may be helpful to consider a criminal defense lawyer. Though the lawyer’s personal moral code likely finds murder immoral and reprehensible, ethics demand the accused client be defended as vigorously as possible, even when the lawyer knows the party is guilty and that a freed defendant would potentially lead to more crime. Legal ethics must override personal morals for the greater good of upholding a justice system in which the accused are given a fair trial and the prosecution must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The prosecution and court must also deal with the difference between ethics and morals. In some cases past actions of the accused might resonate with the current charge, but are kept out of evidence so as not to prejudice the jury. In a sense, the prosecutor “lies by omission” in representing the case, never revealing the prejudicial evidence. The same prosecutor, however, would likely find it reprehensible to fail to tell a friend if her date had a potentially dangerous or suspect history.

Another area in which ethics and morals can clash is at the workplace where company ethics can play against personal morality. Corporate greed that blurs its own ethical lines coupled with unreasonable demands on time can lead to having to choose between a stressful, demanding and consuming work ethic, and family obligations seen as moral obligations to spouse and children. Conversely, people lose jobs every day because of poor personal morals, employee theft being a common reason for dismissal.

In society, we are all faced with the butting heads of ethics and morals. Abortion is legal and therefore medically ethical, while many people find it personally immoral. Fundamentalists, extremists, and even mainstream theists all have different ideas about morality that impact each of our lives, even if indirectly through social pressures or legal discrimination.

In the case of homosexuality, many believe it is morally wrong, yet some of the same people also believe it is unethical to discriminate legally against a group of people by disallowing them the same rights afforded heterosexuals. This is a plain example of ethics and morals at battle. Ethics and morals are central issues as the world strives to overcome current challenges and international crossroads. Hopefully, in the coming years, a growing understanding will lead to peaceful and productive solutions.
The best short definition I’ve heard, courtesy of my friend Stirling, is that morals are how you treat people you know. Ethics are how you treat people you don’t know.

Your morality is what makes you a good wife or husband, dad or mother. A good daughter or son. A good friend. Even a good employee or boss to the people you know personally in the company.

Your ethics are what makes you a good politician. It is what makes you a statesman. It is also what makes you a good, humane CEO of any large company (and yes, you can make money and pay your employees well as Costco proves.)

When you’re a politicians or a CEO, most of what you do will affect people you don’t know, people you can’t know, people who are just statistics to you. You have no personal connection to them, and you never will. This is at the heart of Stalin’s comment that “a single death is a tragedy, a million deaths a statistic.” Change the welfare rules, people will live or die, suffer or prosper. Change the tax structure, healthcare mandates, trade laws, transit spending—virtually everything you do means someone will win, and someone will lose. Sometimes fatally.

Ethics is more important than morality in creating a functioning society. This comes back to what I was discussing earlier, that it is worse to kill or harm more people than to kill or harm fewer people.

Morality dictates that you take care of your family, friends and even acquaintances first. It is at the heart of the common admonition to “put your family first.” Whenever I hear a politician say “I put my family first” I think “then you shouldn’t be in public office.”

We call the family the building block of society, but this is nonsense except in the broadest sense. The structure of the family is entirely socially based, generally on how we make our living. A hundred years ago in America and Canada the extended family was the norm, today the nuclear family is, with single parent families coming on strong. In China this transition, from extended to nuclear family, took place in living memory, many adults still in their prime can remember extended families, and were raised in them. The wealthy often have their children raised by servants (I was for my first five years), tribal societies often put all male children into the same tent or tents at puberty, and so on. A hundred and fifty years ago children were taught at home, by the extended family, and not by professional teachers. They spent much more time with family until they were apprenticed out, if they were.

To be sure, children must be born and raised for society to continue, men and women must come together to get that done, but there are many ways to do it, and God did not come down and mandate the nuclear family.

This may seem like an aside from the main point, but it is not. Family is not fundamental, it is not first. Society is first, and family is shaped by the needs and ideology of the society.

For a large society, a society where you can’t know everyone, to work ethics must come before morality, or ethics and morality must have a great deal of overlaps. By acting morally, you must be able to act ethically.
Our current ethical system requires politicians to act unethically, to do great harm to people they don’t know, while protecting those they do. This can hardly be denied, and was on display in the 2007/8 financial collapse and the bailout after. The millions of homeowners and employees politicians and central bankers did not know were not helped, and the people the politicians and central bankers and treasury officials did know, were bailed out. Austerity, likewise, has hurt people politicians don’t know, while enriching the corporate officers and rich they do know.

The structure of our economy is designed to impoverish people we don’t know. For developed nations’ citizens this means people in undeveloped nations. For the rich this means cutting the wages of the middle class. For the middle class it means screwing over the poor (yes, the middle class does the day to day enforcement, don’t pretend otherwise.) We are obsessed with “lowering costs” and making loans, and both of those are meant to extract maximum value from people while giving them as little as they can in return.

We likewise ignore the future, refusing to build or repair infrastructure, to invest properly in basic science, and refusing to deal with global warming. These decisions will overwhelmingly affect people we don’t know: any individual infrastructure collapse won’t hit us, odds are, and global warming will kill most of its victims in the future. The rich and powerful, in particular, believe that they will avoid the consequences of these things. It will affect people other than them.

To put the needs of the few before the needs of the many, in public life, is to be a monster. But even in private life if we all act selfishly, as our reigning ideology indicates we should, we destroy ourselves. If we all put only ourselves and those we love first, and damn the cost to everyone else, our societies cannot and will not be prosperous, safe, or kind.

The war of all against all is just as nasty when it is waged by small kin groups as when it is waged by individuals.

What Are Morals, Values & Beliefs?
By Lindsey Scott, eHow Contributor -last updated October 14, 2014

Beliefs, morals and values help guide our behaviors.
Philosophers and social scientists have long sought to understand the decision-making process. Why do we choose to do one thing over another? Are there certain routes of action that are better than others? Beliefs, morals and values help us make these judgments and decisions. While the three concepts are related, each functions in a slightly different way.

What Are the Differences Between Morals & Values?
Beliefs
According to modern philosophers, a belief is any thought that an individual holds to be true. Although they may not be an active part of an individual's decision-making process, beliefs often indirectly influence individual choices, judgments and behaviors. Many beliefs are commonplace and are the basic building blocks of our experience, such as the belief that we are living in the 21st century. However, other beliefs are more abstract and may not be shared between certain individuals or societies, such as the belief in a particular religion.

Values
The term "value" was originally used to define the worth of an object in economic exchange. In the humanities and social sciences, a value generally refers to any object (including abstract ones such as a characteristic or state of being) that an individual deems worthy. Values are often formed by beliefs. For example, the belief that rain forests provide important resources to humankind may lead someone to hold rain forest preservation as a value.

Morals
While beliefs and values may sometimes guide the actions of an individual or group, morals are, by definition, guiding principles for behavior. These guiding principles act as a code of conduct created from ideals for behavior, which are influenced by what an individual or group holds as values. Legal systems are created to reflect morals shared by certain groups in a society; these systems protect the moral codes in place by punishing individuals who eschew the codified morals (in the form of breaking the law).

Moral Relativism and Universal Morals
Because different groups of people often have different sets of beliefs, societies may privilege different sets of values and develop different moral codes. As a result, definitions of "right" and "wrong" change across cultures; one society may support a behavior while another may punish it. Since the 20th century, some lawmakers and political theorists have attended to these disparities by practicing moral relativism--the belief that morality is dependent upon perspective, and so no one set of behaviors is necessarily more righteous than another. Critics of moral relativism argue that there are certain moral standards that must be upheld for human civilization to flourish. In 1948, the United Nations developed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which is a legally binding contract that ensures all nations participating in the treaties of the U.N. must enforce certain morals such as freedom from slavery in order to retain membership in the organization.

Read more: http://www.ehow.com/info_8079763_morals-values-beliefs.html