**Ethics Assignment**

**By**

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The Art of Ethics

Ethics are defined as standards that society uses to define whether an individual is acting right or wrong. The development of ethics typically stems from an individual’s family. Parents endow their children with certain family values that then are passed down through multiple generations. The way I rationalize situations and carry-out decisions are a result of what I have learned from my family. Ethics are not a feeling, science, religion, or an accepted social practice. They consist of five different sources of ethical standards. The five sources of ethical standards are The Utilitarian Approach, The Rights Approach, The Fairness or Justice Approach, The Common Good Approach, and The Virtue Approach. Although my parents did not define ethics in this fashion (through such terminology), I see many of my ethical qualities in these approaches.

The Utilitarian approach states that an individual should strive to do more good than harm. In other words, this approach states that ethical choices are those that benefit the most people or those that harm the fewest people. The Right Approach professes that the most ethical forms of behavior are those that pay the most attention to the moral rights of those affected by a behavior. If an individual uses the rights approach it is critical to respect and protect the moral rights of individuals. In addition, The Fairness or Justice Approach believes that everyone should be treated the same, no matter what. However, if an individual is to be treated unequally it should be based on some standard that is defensible and fair. The Common Good Approach dictates that the betterment of community/society should be the primary goal of ethical acts. Lastly, the Virtue Approach manifests that “ethical actions ought to be consistent with certain ideal virtues that provide for the full development of our humanity.” (www.scu.edu) Although many of my decisions stem from these different approaches, I am closely fond of the “The Common Good Approach.”

From a very young age I have been taught to be magnanimous. I have been part of many community outreach programs during my life. I have helped my community through collaboration with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and Habitat for Humanity to name a few. Following this approach has enabled me to see many problems our community faces. My primary reason for going to school was to help my family, help my community and lastly help myself. The family, and community has made me the individual I am today by providing me with very important lessons that school did not. When certain individuals reach a top spot in the world they tend to undermine their community consciously or subconsciously. I dream of one day establishing a small business in arbor care, and gardening/landscaping. As of now I have established a mission statement which is as follows: “I, Delbin Sanchez intend on graduating Woodbury University in the next two years and due to this sought out education I will endeavor to learn and create through the collaboration of others. I am committed to one day establish my own small business which will grow as time elapses and through this success I shall redress many grievances of the community. My increasing knowledge of the world around me will enable me to fulfill the needs of my business and community.” I agree with the common good approach because I believe society molds individuals for certain situations. If the well-being of our community is not ensured what can individuals gain? Whether it is a service company or manufacturing company, the needs of the community (consumer) comes first and without such consideration a business will fail.

From the discussion during class I realized that some individuals base their “ethical decisions,” on current situations and other factors. There is no one standard used to carry out all decisions. Each problem/dilemma makes us think long and hard about advantages and disadvantages to a decision. When we are put in a situation that we dislike we tend to go against our ethics and implement a different course of action. Sometimes it is better to go against what we deem acceptable and make a decision based on how it might affect others. For example, if you are in a situation in which your best friend is pregnant and about to get married next month to a cheating man, do you choose to tell your best friend or not? This moral dilemma would force you to take many things into consideration such as your friend’s pregnancy and marriage. If you approach the situation you can potentially end a relationship and future marriage. This in turn can affect the incoming baby.

Many individuals in class had differing perspectives for this situation. Although we would rather not deal with such a dilemma because it is undesirable we have to think about this because effective and efficient decisions are critical to business success. When we discuss ethics we do not only talk about ethics when interacting with family and friends. Business ethics is included in the mix as well. The way we currently handle our ethical issues will dictate the type of business people we are. It is important to see decision making from all angles before implementing them. The discussion on ethics has enabled me to understand what kind of an ethical person I am as well as where each of my ethical qualities stem from. Although I relate most to the “common good approach,” I believe my ethical decision skills consist of each of the five ethical standards, depending on the situation.

Before analyzing myself and deciding which ethical approach I am most similar to I thought my principles were similar to those of Confucius. I believed I followed much of those principles until I watched the video explaining most of what it entails. I do honor my parents/guardians and elders like the Confucius theory deems acceptable but I believe that no one should control our decisions. Confucius theories impose filial piety which means loyalty to the family and the head of the house. The teachings impart that all our decisions should take into considerations the perspective of our family. I do believe that we all have to honor our family to some extent. However, there are times that we have to make decisions for ourselves. For instance, my father wanted me to be an architect. I studied and lived architecture for two-years and realized that it was not right for me. I switched my major to Business Management and now I feel more ecstatic than I was when studying architecture. I went against my father’s wished but I did so with good intention and as a result my mind has opened up to greater ideas and I feel more progressive and in touch with myself. If I had not made this change at the time I did I would have prolonged my inner-suffering. I have not discussed this change with my father yet but I hope to tell him when I have something powerful to show him. I believe Confucius theories have good intentions but it seems a bit unorthodox to force individuals to conform to what society or family wants them to be. Family is the most important aspect in my life and I will forever protect them but the decisions I make are done with the intention to help everyone and myself. I might put myself second to everyone and anything but that does not mean I am going to undermine myself.

The common good approach is most similar to the “Golden Rule.” The golden rule states that we should treat people the same way we would like to be treated. I treat my community with the outmost respect because I would not like to be disrespected. I have the desire to give back to the community because I believe it has bestowed me with so many lessons and benefits. Without the community I would not be the open-minded, charismatic, and creative individual I deem myself to be. Ethics is an issue that should not be undermined but accepted and practiced daily now and forever.

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