

Pondering Point

Many times choosing the solution to a problem is difficult and factoring ethics into the equation narrows our possibilities. We know that the actions and choices we make reflect who we are as a person. Because of this, it is important to think through an "ethical filter".

Since the idea of what is ethical varies from person to person, we can find ourselves in a gray area of what is considered right and wrong. In the end, we need to be able to make a decision based on if we will be happy with ourselves after and can live with the consequences. **We should weigh the implications of each decision against our own integrity.**

We also need to consider the impact that our proposed solution has on us, others in our immediate culture and also, those even farther out. This gives a thoughtfulness and peace of mind that will ensure we are more secure in the decision itself. While others may not always support this result, in the end, the decision is ours and only we can determine whether something is ethical.

Is that REALLY the right decision?

Is the solution to your problem ethical?



Imagine... feeling confident about our decisions knowing that we have done what is right for ourselves and have considered others' needs as well.

— From Pondering to Practice —

Activity

Get together with a group and discuss the ethical implications of these scenarios and how each of you would approach them.

- 1) You find Bill Gates' wallet and there is \$100 in it, knowing he won't miss that money, do you take it as a finder's fee?
- 2) You are out at the mall and see a parent slap their child hard enough to get your attention, do you get involved?
- 3) Your waitress doesn't charge you for everything you have ordered. When you tell her about this she says, that is o.k., just don't tell the owner. What do you do?

Consider why someone might answer these questions differently than others.

- *What are the reasons for their views?*
- *Are any of these reasons persuasive?*

Consider and acknowledge the diversity in the experiences of others.

Now take stock of how you feel when you make a decision based on what is ethical. This is something to celebrate!

Self Reflection Activity

"It is our choices...that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities."

- J. K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

The next time you have a decision to make, view each of your solutions through this **Ethical Checklist**.

- ✓ *Is this solution right for me?*
- ✓ *Is this solution right for others?*
- ✓ *What are the consequences of this decision?*
 - *Who will be helped by this?*
 - *Who will be hurt?*
- ✓ *Can I happily live with this decision?*

"When you approach a problem, strip yourself of preconceived opinions and prejudice, assemble and learn the facts of the situation, make the decision which seems to you to be the most honest, and then stick to it."

- Chester Bowles, politician