

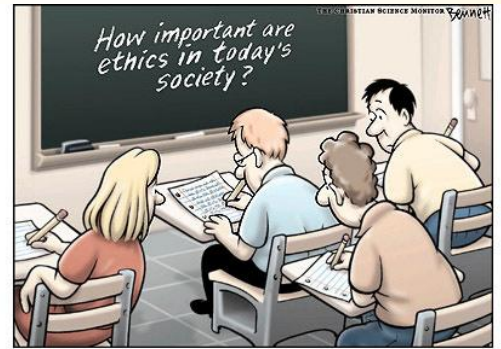
Pondering Point

As adults we have been taught some version of what is right and wrong. Even still, there are those few ethically questionable things we give ourselves permission to do, assuming we won't get caught. Whether it's getting our 13 year old child into a movie at the 12 and under price, or making a right hand turn in front of a 'No Turn on Red' sign at a seemingly deserted intersection. **The idea is less about breaking laws and more about compromising our ethics.**

Many of us see others get away with something and feel it gives us permission to do the same. And the things that we get away with today, we may not get away with tomorrow. The rush we experience when we get away with bending our ethics can lead to more decisions like this. Small decisions can lead to bigger, more impactful choices and perhaps build bad habits. Where is the line? Are we role modeling negative behavior to other people by letting our ethics slide? Who may be watching us when we think no one is looking?

If our decisions dictate our actions, and actions speak louder than words – then what are our choices saying about our integrity?

What can you GET AWAY WITH?



Imagine... doing the right thing for the right reason, even if you think no one is watching.

— From Pondering to Practice —

Activity

Factors like upbringing and environment help to shape our ideas of what we consider right and wrong.

Try this → The Root of YOUR Ethics

Engage in an open dialog with a group of people you feel comfortable reflecting with.

- Were there instances in your youth when you decided to do something you knew was considered "wrong"?
 - Did you get caught?
 - If so, how did you feel about being caught?
- How would you have handled each of those situations today?
 - Would you make the same decision?
 - Why?
- What kinds of things do you know you could "get away with" now?
- Where is the line between doing something harm/less and potentially harmful?

Self Reflection Activity

Start to become aware of what you're doing. Catch yourself doing those things that challenge your ethics.

- Why did you do this?
- Who may have been watching you?
- Would you do it again and why?
- Were there times when you could have gotten away with something, realized it was wrong and chose not to do it?
- **Celebrate how it feels to do the right thing!**

"The measure of a man's real character is what he would do if he knew he never would be found out."

-Thomas Babington Macaulay