

Principles of Ethics

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The Principles of “ethical life”- the ways to identify life-style and position

1. Asceticism: a neglect of sensational and material world for the sake of spiritual world.
 - a) To make a finest human being;
 - b) To divide body from soul;
 - c) To be able to contemplate.

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2. **Egoism (lat.)** – a life position based on one's interests and neglects others' ones. It is a natural feature, dominating among men in personal and social level.

- a) An extreme form of individualism;
- b) Increases during crisis and emergencies;
- c) 18th century: "healthy egoism"

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3. **Altruism** (by O. Comte) is an ethical principle making a human being to act for other people's benefit. Opposite to egoism.
 - a) Huge role played by religion, family, etc.;
 - b) Is it genetic? Is it artificial?
 - c) Altruism contributes to Ethics/morality/norms.
 - d) Mercy, solidarity, justice – are signs of Altruism.

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4. A-moralism and immoralism.

- A-moralism is a deny of moral standards and norms. Questions most of the principles of the existing morality. Often serves a certain interest (for example, a communist morality). N. Machiavelli: "the aim justifies the means".

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- Immoralism. Also a rejection of morality existing, but often *to propose a new one*.
 - F. Nietzsche, K. Leontyev.

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5. **Utilitarianism (lat.)** – usage and benefits one can obtain. Uses satisfaction and happiness as main criterion.
6. **Pragmatism (Greek)** – a successful actions, was contributed largely by American philosophers. Has practicisim and Protestant's ethics at once.

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7. **Nihilism (lat.)** close to immoralism.

But the main difference: rejection often comes not from egoism, etc., but from a total disappointment.

MORAL CONCEPTS

**Morality: from the Latin word “*mores*” □
customs or manners**

**Ethics: from the Greek word “*ethos*” □
character**

Morality is a corpus of *norms* (values and rules) shared by a group of individuals. Morality is that corpus of norms to which we refer when it is necessary to make a decision involving different courses of actions

Ethics is that branch of philosophy dealing with the nature of morality and reflecting on the ideas of good/bad and right/wrong

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Evolution of ethical thought:

1. Ancient East;
2. Ancient Greece;
3. Ancient Rome;
4. Medieval times;
5. New times;
6. Modernity.

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Evolution of ethical thought:

Ancient Greece.

1. Socrates.
2. Cynics.
3. Epicure.
4. Plato.
5. Aristotle.