



ETHICS IN PUBLIC LIFE
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SUMMARY

- Practical rules and ethical rules
- Virtues and vices
- Ethics in the WFC context
- Ethical scenarios

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PRACTICAL RULES

- If you are driving to Kennewick, inflate your tires to 32 psi.
- To make this French recipe, use unsalted butter.
- To meet the building code, use 5/8 inch thick drywall in the corridor.

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**MOTIVES FOR PRACTICAL RULES
(DO YOU WANT X?)**

- Whims (I want brownies! I want to help the flood victims!)
- Interests (collecting stamps, camping, contributing to the Red Cross)
- Commitments (get a degree, career in firefighting, eradicating malaria)

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**PRACTICAL ADVICE
(IS Y THE ANSWER?)**

- Personal knowledge
- Advice from others
- Public resources
- How things have always been done

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ETHICAL RULES

- Don't steal other peoples' stuff.
- Don't murder anyone.
- Keep your promises.
- Be generous to those in need.

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PRACTICAL OR ETHICAL?

- Use premium gas in that car.
- You should help these flood victims.
- If you want to help the flood victims, send washing machines.

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VIRTUES AND VICES

- Honesty
- Courage
- Greed
- Sloth

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VIRTUE AND VICES

- Generosity
- Loyalty
- Justice
- Prudence

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VIRTUES AND VICES

- What is the connection between virtues and ethical rules?
- Can virtues conflict?
- Can virtues exist independently?
- Are all people capable of virtue?

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CAN VIRTUES BE MISUSED?

- Courage in service of what?
- Generosity to whom?
- Loyalty to whom?
- Can one have too much honesty?

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WHERE DO ETHICAL IDEAS COME FROM?

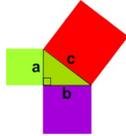
- Learned from others
- Prudential
- Innate
- Intuition

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WHERE DO ETHICAL IDEAS COME FROM?



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RECAP

- Practical and ethical rules
- Virtues and vices
- Where do ethical ideas come from?

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INTEGRITY

- Related to "integer" or "whole"
- Complete, sound
- Having sound, well balanced moral principles

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VIRTUE IN THE WFC CONTEXT

- Protect public safety
- Protect health/safety of firefighters
- Train members
- Recognize position of public trust

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VIRTUE IN THE WFC CONTEXT

- Educate the public about fire safety
- Learn about innovations, technology
- Plan for unusual events
- Support firefighter charities

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VIRTUE IN THE WFC CONTEXT

- Learn about homeland defense
- Learn about funding for firefighters
- Learn about different cultures
- Support non-firefighter charities

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SCENARIO 1

Your fire station needs a new telephone system. You publish a Request for Proposals that says you will accept the best proposal submitted by a certain deadline. Your cousin is in the business of selling telephone systems. She offers to beat any other price you may get.

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SCENARIO 2

You are a fire safety officer. At an apartment building fire, firefighter Fred comes out of the building carrying a child and says, "There are more children inside. I'm going back in." Fred is obviously tired and may have been struck on the head by falling debris, but he will not submit to medical examination. The incident commander agrees that Fred can go back in.

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SCENARIO 3

You find out that firefighter Joe has cheated on an exam for a promotion. Joe says, "If you turn me in for this, I'll let everyone know that you stole from the department." You took some petty cash one time, but you returned it later.

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