Ethics, Values, and Morals

Anthropology 12/10/09

Define

- In your own words, define the following terms
  - Ethics

  - Values

  - Morals

What is the class definition

- Now that all of you have a definition for each of the terms, share with the class. Can you come up with a class room definition for each term?

Values

- Values are the rules by which we make decisions about right and wrong, should and shouldn't, good and bad. They also tell us which are more or less important, which is useful when we have to trade off meeting one value over another.

- Dictionary.com defines values as:
  - n : beliefs of a person or social group in which they have an emotional investment (either for or against something); "he has very conservatives values"

Morals

- Morals have a greater social element to values and tend to have a very broad acceptance. Morals are far more about good and bad than other values. We thus judge others more strongly on morals than values. A person can be described as immoral, yet there is no word for them not following values.
- Dictionary.com defines morals as:
  - n : motivation based on ideas of right and wrong

Ethics

- You can have professional ethics, but you seldom hear about professional morals. Ethics tend to be codified into a formal system or set of rules which are explicitly adopted by a group of people. Thus you have medical ethics. Ethics are thus internally defined and adopted, whilst morals tend to be externally imposed on other people.

- If you accuse someone of being unethical, it is equivalent of calling them unprofessional and may well be taken as a significant insult and perceived more personally than if you called them immoral (which of course they may also not like).

- Dictionary.com defines ethics as:
  - A theory or a system of moral values: "An ethic of service is at war with a craving for gain"
  - The rules or standards governing the conduct of a person or the members of a profession.

Ethics In Society

- *Ethics of principled conviction* asserts that intent is the most important factor. If you have good principles, then you will act ethically.

- *Ethics of responsibility* challenges this, saying that you must understand the consequences of your decisions and actions and answer to these, not just your high-minded principles. The medical maxim 'do no harm', for example, is based in the outcome-oriented ethics of responsibility.

Yet, ethics, morals, and values are subjective to the culture

- How do you think cultures are affected by their ethics, morals, and values? Class discussion.

Ancient Greece

- Sparta- Infants were inspected by high priests shortly after birth. If they child did not meet societies standards, the child was tossed off a cliff.
- Is this ethical? Why or why not?
- What values does this reflect in the society of Sparta?
- Based on the definition or morals, right and wrong, is this behavior moral? Is it moral to their society? Why?

Continuing with our Study of Religion

- Many of the values, ethics, and morals of societies are shaped by the belief systems that are practiced in that region. For the next few slides, read the examples provided and discuss how they may influence a culture. Also consider what they reflect about a culture.

Christianity & Judaism

- The 10 Commandments-
- 1-4 how to worship & practice the religion.
  - Establishes monotheism, no idols, do not use lords name in vain, remember the Sabbath
- 5-10 values and morals
  - Don't kill, don't steal, don't lie, don't commit adultery, honor your mother and father.

Christianity & Judaism

- What do the 10 commandments reflect about the values, morals, and ethics of a culture?

- How would they shape Judeo-Christian culture?

5 Pillar of Islam?

- The 5 pillars of Islam establish the principle beliefs of the culture.
    - There is only 1 god (this is called the admission of faith)
    - Pray 5 times a day facing Mecca
    - Give charity
    - Make a pilgrimage to Mecca
    - Fast during the holy months

5 Pillars of Islam

- How are the 5 pillars similar to the 10 commandments?

- How are they different (cannot say there are only 5 instead of 10)?

- How would they influence Islamic society?

Buddhism

- 4 noble truths
  - There is suffering
  - Suffering is caused by desire
  - The way to end suffering is to end desire
  - The way to end desire is to follow the 8 fold path
    - » 8 fold path: Right view, right intentions, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right concentration, right mindfullness

Buddhism

- How do the 4 noble truths and the 8 fold path differ from Judeo-Christian and Muslim ethics, values, and morals?

Confucianism

- There are three primary beliefs of Confucianism
  - Filial piety- respect for elders and ancestors
  - Treat others as you would want to be treated
  - The Five Bonds- respecting relationships
    - Ruler to Subject
    - Father to Son
    - Husband to Wife
    - Friend to Friend
    - Elder Brother to Younger Brother

Confucianism

- How do these beliefs reflect the ideas of morals and values in traditional Chinese Culture?

- How are they similar or different to the other belief systems covered?

Great job!

- I'm sure you are doing a fantastic job. Why don't you enjoy some pictures that relate to what you have been reading about, and then please answer the question on the final slide.
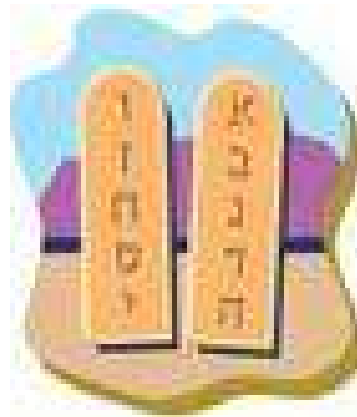
Confucianism

Buddhism

Islam

Judaism

Christianity

Free response

- How do ethics, values, and morals vary from culture to culture, and what do they reflect about a society? Provide examples.

- Why do cultures create ethics, morals, and values?

- Have a good weekend.