

Ethical Dilemmas Brief Scenarios

What is the morally right thing to do in the following cases? Read each scenario and be prepared to answer the questions below for two scenarios that you choose.

1. If you were selling a car and knew about a subtle but serious problem, would you tell the prospective buyers?
2. Should the wealthier members of society be forced to pay through taxation, for the poorer members? If so, how much?
3. You are paying for a purchase of three items at a local store and notice that the clerk only charged you for two of the items. Would you tell her of the oversight and pay the correct amount or walk out of the store with the extra item unpaid?
4. A rich man and a poor man commit the same type of crime. The rich man is fined \$10,000 while the poor man is sent to jail for one year. Is this fair?
5. You run an orphanage and have had a hard time making ends meet. A car dealership offers you a new van worth \$15,000 for free if you will falsely report to the government that the dealership donated a van worth \$30,000. You really need the van and it will give you an opportunity to make the children happy. Do you agree to take the van?
6. You are shopping and notice a woman stuffing a pair of stockings into her purse. Do you report her?
7. You are waiting with a few other people to board a bus. The bus pulls up and before you can board, the driver gets out and goes into the convenience store to get a coffee. You are the last person to get on the bus. Do you pay for your fare?

Answer each question as completely as possible for one of the ethical dilemmas listed above. Scenario # _____

1. What are the facts?
2. Identity and define the ethical problem:
3. Who are the stake makers in the decision?
4. What values are at stake in the decision?

5. What options do you see are available to resolve this dilemma and which are most compelling?
6. How would you resolve the dilemma?
7. What values did you rely on to make your decision?
8. What consequences (if any) do you see your decision has on the others involved?
9. Could you personally live with the decision? If not, re-examine your answers to questions 5, 6 and 7 and examine other options to your dilemma.

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