***MAKING ETHICAL DECISIONS***

***Josephson Institute Explains Ethics***

**Immanuel Kant**

Immanuel Kant was a German philosopher, one of the most influential thinkers in Western Civilization, who contributed to the areas of metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and aesthetics.  His philosophical thoughts have had a lasting impact on almost every philosophical movement that came after him.

Kant is important in the discipline of Ethics because he defines the concepts of freedom and reason, duality of human situation, good will, and duty.

The Josephson Institute has prepared a booklet, which synthesizes Kant’s ethical philosophy into modern concepts. This document will serve as a primer as to how we make duty-driven (clear right/wrong) decisions where “right” is determined by an outside authority (Deity, law, or corporation)

[**1. MAKING SENSE OF ETHICS**](javascript:doWindowOpen('http://www.josephsoninstitute.org/MED/MED-1makingsense.htm','new_frame','width=600,height=420,menubar=1,toolbar=1,scrollbars=1,status=1,location=1,resizable=1',0))

• What Is Ethics?  
• The Importance of Universality  
• When Values Collide  
• From Values to Principles  
• Ethics and Action  
• Why Be Ethical?

[**2. THE SIX PILLARS OF CHARACTER**](javascript:doWindowOpen('http://www.josephsoninstitute.org/MED/MED-2sixpillars.htm','new_frame','width=600,height=420,menubar=1,toolbar=1,scrollbars=1,status=1,location=1,resizable=1',0))

• *Trustworthiness*  
     - Honesty  
     - Integrity  
     - Reliability (Promise-keeping)  
     - Loyalty  
• *Respect*  
     - Civility, Courtesy and Decency  
     - Dignity and Autonomy  
     - Tolerance and Acceptance  
• *Responsibility*  
     - Accountability  
     - Pursuit of Excellence  
     - Self-Restraint  
• *Fairness*  
     - Process  
     - Impartiality  
     - Equity  
• *Caring*  
• *Citizenship*

[**3. GROUNDWORK FOR MAKING AN EFFECTIVE DECISION**](javascript:doWindowOpen('http://www.josephsoninstitute.org/MED/MED-3groundwork.htm','new_frame','width=600,height=420,menubar=1,toolbar=1,scrollbars=1,status=1,location=1,resizable=1',0))

• Taking Choices Seriously  
• Recognizing Important Decisions  
• Good Decisions Are both Ethical and Effective  
   *Example: Suzy and Sue*  
• Discernment and Discipline  
• Stakeholders  
   *Example: Charlie and the "Harmless" Prank*

[**4. THE SEVEN-STEP PATH TO BETTER DECISIONS**](javascript:doWindowOpen('http://www.josephsoninstitute.org/MED/MED-4sevensteppath.htm','new_frame','width=600,height=420,menubar=1,toolbar=1,scrollbars=1,status=1,location=1,resizable=1',0))

1. Stop and Think
2. Clarify Goals
3. Determine Facts
4. Develop Options
5. Consider Consequences
6. Choose
7. Monitor and Modify

[**5. OBSTACLES TO ETHICAL DECISION MAKING: RATIONALIZATIONS**](javascript:doWindowOpen('http://www.josephsoninstitute.org/MED/MED-5rationalizations.htm','new_frame','width=600,height=420,menubar=1,toolbar=1,scrollbars=1,status=1,location=1,resizable=1',0))

• If It's Necessary, It's Ethical  
• The False Necessity Trap  
• If It's Legal and Permissible, It's Proper  
• It's Just Part of the Job  
• It's All for a Good Cause  
• I Was Just Doing It for You  
• I'm Just Fighting Fire With Fire  
• It Doesn't Hurt Anyone  
• Everyone's Doing It  
• It's OK if I Don't Gain Personally  
• I've Got It Coming  
• I Can Still Be Objective

[**6.  BEING THE PERSON YOU WANT TO BE**](javascript:doWindowOpen('http://www.josephsoninstitute.org/MED/MED-6beingperson.htm','new_frame','width=600,height=420,menubar=1,toolbar=1,scrollbars=1,status=1,location=1,resizable=1',0))

• Where Does Character Come From?  
• On Happiness