**Questions Regarding Ethics**

Have you experienced times when a leader’s ethics have been questionable? How did it make you feel?

* My boss during the summer called me into her office one day and told me to slow my pace and stop working as hard as I had been because I was completing more work orders than the full-time employees were. I questioned this in my head because I wondered why they would not want to help as many people possible in one day. I realized that my boss didn’t want to overwhelm my colleagues and make my pace the expectation. It made me feel bad and question my bosses ethics as well as her work ethic because I thought I was doing a really good job, but a good work-ethic wasn’t rewarded.

Have scandals influenced your opinion of leaders at work, in school, in politics or in your church?

* Very much so. Since my senior year of high school, 3 teachers from my school have been removed due to sexual misconduct with students. It killed me finding this out on the news because they were teachers I had really admired and played a pivotal role in my development. It made me question everything they had ever done or said to me and really had negatively affected my relationships with teachers since because I am now way less trusting.

How would you address a boss or an employee who was working in an unethical manner?

* I think I would first explain how I am viewing the situation and how it is coming across to everyone to give him or her a chance to defend themselves. If they continue to behave this way, I would continue to question them and ask if this is really the best way of doing it. I think if it continued to escalate from there I would bring in other parties.

Have you experienced situations where you have had an ethical conflict with a coworker, roommate or friend? How did it work out? Explain.

* Last year my roommates and I caused some damage to our college apartment. When it was time to move out my roommate did not want me to help me fix anything and said it would just be the proprietor’s problem. However, I explained to him how well our proprietor treated us for two years and how unfair it would be to return her property in bad conditions. Once my roommate understood where I was coming from he was quick to pitch in with making repairs.

Where do personal ethics come from? Are they instilled in childhood? Learned in school?

* I think your primary guardian initially instills personal ethics in childhood because they teach you how to react and behave in situations. Throughout your life, you experience situations and scenarios that will further shape you, but often your ethics come down to what you have always known. You would have to experience something drastic to flip your initially personal ethics.

In what contexts do you let people know your values and what you stand for?

* I let people know my values through my actions. If I am taking part in something, it is because I support it. However, if I am merely a bystander and reluctant to jump in it is probably because I am not on board and do not believe in it.

Have you ever paid a price for taking an ethical stand on an issue?

* In my AP English class in high school, I would speak up and defend Christianity in class and would constantly face criticism from other classmates and the teacher and it would feel like they were ganging up on me. Luckily, the only price I had to pay was embarrassment for being called out a lot.

What is our ethical responsibility toward future generations?

* We first need to ensure that will even have a planet to live on by taking an ethical stand against climate change but we also need to raise future generations to questions decisions and to stand up for people that don’t always have a voice.

Should we hold leaders to a higher standard with regard to ethics? Why or why not?

* Yes we should. This whole class demonstrates just how much impact a leader can have on a following of people, so it’s important that they are doing things appropriately and setting the example for the followers.

Do the ethical responsibilities of public leaders differ from those in the private sector? If so, why is that? If not, should that be changed?

* Yes they do. In my opinion, it is all about money. The public sector is focused on serving people because they have to while the private sectors primary goal is to make as much money possible to keep shareholders happy. The private sector is extremely competitive so if a leader behaves unethically he will most likely suffer from financial losses and will lose his job, but there is less accountability in the public because they can do whatever they want and face backlash, but nothing is really holding them accountable.

Why do we pay selective attention to unethical behavior of public figures? For example, some people may ignore or discount sexual harassment behavior by male politicians, but harshly criticize a female politician about her questionable financial practices.

* We have come accustomed to it sadly. We are so used to hearing male cases involving sexual harassment that we are numb to it and it does not stick out. However, we still aren’t super use to a female making financial decisions so it is more likely to stick out and rub people the wrong way.

Has the U.S. culture become desensitized to unethical behavior by leaders?

* Building on the last question, scandals and stories are on the news every day and we are so overwhelmed with information that we can’t possibly process all of it so a lot of things are just taken at face value and you move on with your life until the next scandal.

How can a leader’s ethics permeate a group or organization so that their values become shared by all?

* It has to be authentic. Trust is the leading factor so if a leader is being his authentic self and is passionate about his feelings and ethics they will carry over to the other followers in the group.