

# POTENTIAL SOURCES OF ETHICS / MORALITY

Everyone lives according to some sort of ethical system – where do we get our systems from?

## 1. An **inherited** system

This is the most common, normal, and is often a good thing:

- **Good as far as it goes**
- **Good if it is rooted in reality & truth**
- **Better if it practiced**
- **Won't last for a lifetime**
- **Must be personally adopted / embraced**

## 2. A **borrowed** system

This is similar to #1 and may be an extension of it.

Example: My Father

An unbeliever

A “Christian” unbeliever

**Why?**

- **Part of the zeitgeist**
- **In the “air” you breathe**

For my Dad and his generation: school, church, media (movies & music) public sector, schools... →

When did this disappear? Begin to disappear? Maybe impossible to pinpoint a date but...

Bill Clinton:

I'm personally against abortion but...

Don't ask, don't tell!

- **This is not available intact today!**

It is still obviously believed & practiced by many...

**Deuteronomy 27:4** Therefore it shall be when ye be gone over Jordan, that ye shall set up these stones, which I command you this day, in mount Ebal, and thou shalt plaister them with plaister. **Deuteronomy 27:5** And there shalt thou build an altar unto the LORD thy God, an altar of stones: thou shalt not lift up any iron tool upon them. **Deuteronomy 27:6** Thou shalt build the altar of the LORD thy God of whole stones: and thou shalt offer burnt offerings thereon unto the LORD thy God: **Deuteronomy 27:7** And thou shalt offer peace offerings, and shalt eat there, and rejoice before the LORD thy God. **Deuteronomy 27:8** And thou shalt write upon the stones all the words of this law very plainly. **Deuteronomy 27:9** And Moses and the priests the Levites spake unto all Israel, saying, Take heed, and hearken, O Israel; this day thou art become the people of the LORD thy God. **Deuteronomy 27:10** Thou shalt therefore obey the voice of the LORD thy God, and do his commandments and his statutes, which I command thee this day.

**Deuteronomy 27:11** And Moses charged the people the same day, saying,

**Deuteronomy 27:12** These shall stand upon mount Gerizim to bless the people, when ye are come over Jordan; Simeon, and Levi, and Judah, and Issachar, and Joseph, and Benjamin:

**Deuteronomy 27:13** And these shall stand upon mount Ebal to curse; Reuben, Gad, and Asher, and Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali.

**Deuteronomy 28:1** And it shall come to pass, **if** thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

**Deuteronomy 28:2** And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, **if** thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

**Deuteronomy 28:14** And thou shalt **not** go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them. **Deuteronomy 28:15** But it shall come to pass, **if** thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

**Joshua 8:30** Then Joshua built an altar unto the LORD God of Israel in mount Ebal, **Joshua 8:31** As Moses the servant of the LORD commanded the children of Israel, as it is written in the book of the law of Moses, an altar of whole stones, over which no man hath

lift up any iron: and they offered thereon burnt offerings unto the LORD, and sacrificed peace offerings. **Joshua 8:32** And he wrote there upon the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he wrote in the presence of the children of Israel. **Joshua 8:33** **And all Israel, and their elders, and officers, and their judges, stood on this side the ark and on that side before the priests the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, as well the stranger, as he that was born among them; half of them over against mount Gerizim, and half of them over against mount Ebal;** as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded before, that they should bless the people of Israel. **Joshua 8:34** And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessings and cursings, according to all that is written in the book of the law. **Joshua 8:35** There was not a word of all that Moses commanded, which Joshua read not before all the congregation of Israel, with the women, and the little ones, and the strangers that were conversant among them.

### 3. A cultural system (regional or national)

This is a wide / broad view:

Western – Eastern | Non-Western

American – European – Asian...

Russian – Indian – Thai

Scandinavian – African – Eastern Europe – Southern Europe

**Colossians 3:11** Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

**Galatians 3:28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

I've heard &/ encountered so many things....

**Leviticus 18:1** And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, **Leviticus 18:2** Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, I am the LORD your God.

**Leviticus 18:3** After the doings of the land of Egypt, wherein ye dwelt, **shall ye not do: and after the doings of the land of Canaan, whither I bring you, shall ye not do:** neither shall ye walk in their ordinances.

**Leviticus 18:4** Ye shall do **my judgments, and keep mine ordinances, to walk therein: I am the LORD your God.** **Leviticus 18:5** Ye shall therefore keep **my statutes, and my judgments:** which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the LORD.

**Leviticus 18:24** Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: **for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you:**

**Leviticus 18:25** And the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants. **Leviticus 18:26** Ye shall therefore keep my statutes and my judgments, and shall not commit any of these abominations; neither any of your own nation, nor any stranger that sojourneth among you: **Leviticus 18:27** (For all these abominations have the men of the land done, which were before you, and the land is defiled;) **Leviticus 18:28** That the land spue not you out also, when ye defile it, **as** it spued out the nations that were before you.

### 4. A tribal system | us ↔ them!

➤ This is nearly infinite & highly adaptable

(tribes | clans | communities | social groups | economic groups | blue collar & white collar....)

➤ This is the “oldest” form of morality

➤ This is also the **most** frightening

➤ This is **not really** a system of ethics but of power

➤ My group is good & your group is bad

➤ My group is right & your group is wrong

- Right & wrong get lost in talk about power and power politics
- Vox populi, vox Dei (Well at least my group is the voice of God)

<b>CLASSIC MARXISM:</b>		
<b>CLASSISM:</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Rich</b>
	<b>Workers</b>	<b>Owners</b>
	<b>Good</b>	<b>Bad / Evil</b>
Why has this failed in the USA?	<b>Oppressed</b>	<b>Oppressors</b>

<b>NEO-MARXISM:</b>		
<b>SEXISM:</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Men</b>
<b>EXPANDED (&amp; EXPANDING) SEXISM:</b>	<b>LGBTQIA2S+++</b>	<b>Cisgender</b>
And many more attempting to gain a foothold / hearing: Gender fluid, gender non-conforming, pan-gender...  <u>Why?</u>	L G B T Q I A 2S	
<b>RACISM:</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>White</b>
<b>EXPANDED (&amp; EXPANDING) RACISM:</b>	<b>People of Color</b>	<b>White</b>

<b>INTERNATIONAL MARXISM:</b>		
<b>MARXISM BETWEEN COUNTRIES / REGIONS:</b>	<b>Exploited</b>	<b>Exploiters</b>
	<b>Colonized</b>	<b>Colonizers</b>

GHOST CATEGORY:		
	Children	Parents

COMMON LANGUAGE:		
	<b>Good</b>	<b>Bad / evil</b>
	<b>Oppressed</b>	<b>Oppressors</b>
	<b>Victims</b>	<b>Victimizers</b>
	<b>Exploited</b>	<b>Exploiters</b>
	<b>Disadvantaged</b>	<b>Advantaged</b>
	<b>Disadvantaged</b>	<b>Privileged</b>
	<b>Abused</b>	<b>Abusers</b>
	<b>Cannot be classist, sexist, racist...</b>	<b>Cannot NOT be classist, sexist, racist</b>
	<b>Can't say anything bad about</b>	<b>Can't say anything good about</b>

**THOUGHTS:**

**1. There are only binary choices – no middle positions / shades of gray!**

This is called the fallacy of a false dilemma or, the fallacy of the excluded middle

**2. This paradigm removes ethics / morality leaving us only with groups of mutual hate and power struggles.**

**3. This results in **much more** division & hate.**

**4. All things **become** about power → never about right & wrong**

**5. Racism is then used to combat racism! Discrimination to fight discrimination. Hate to fight hate!**

**6. This is an attempt to find the “high moral ground” and skip the discussion.**

**7. This is also a power-play to eliminate all discussion **before** it begins. A **discussion ender!** (Much like: God told me! The Holy Spirit led me! God opened a door!)**

**8. There are no LAW(s)- that **all** people, at **all** times, in **all** places are obligated to obey. Law is simply **language** about power!**

**Numbers 9:14** And if a stranger shall sojourn among you, and will keep the passover unto the LORD; according to the ordinance of the passover, and according to the manner thereof, so shall he do: ye shall have one ordinance, both for the stranger, and for him that was born in the land.

**Numbers 15:15** One ordinance shall be both for you of the congregation, and also for the stranger that sojourneth with you, an ordinance for ever in your generations: as ye are, so shall the stranger be before the LORD. **Numbers 15:16** One law and one manner shall be for you, and for the stranger that sojourneth with you.

**Numbers 15:29** Ye shall have one law for him that sinneth through ignorance, both for him that is born among the children of Israel, and for the stranger that sojourneth among them.

**Results:**

**No universal**

## **No rule of law**

### **No universal**

**Romans 3:10** As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

**Romans 3:23** For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

**Jeremiah 17:9** The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

### **No universal ways treating people!**

**Matthew 7:12** Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

**1 Peter 2:17** Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

**Romans 14:12** So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

**9. In many ways, this is simply going back to the old tribalism! My tribe is good and your tribe is bad! Obviously, in a more sophisticated way!**

**10. This works well in the media & the academy since it eliminates all thinking and sells well for shock value.**

**If it leads it bleeds!**

**Focus on conflict...between groups! Outcomes between groups which can only be a result of classism, racism, or sexism, or genderism!**

**Almost all studies are done through a binary lense!**

**11. Intersectionality: How many boxes can you check???**

**12. This falls apart once we recognize the not binary choices! **! Most things are not binary / are****

**Life is almost always a spectrum / a continuum!**

## **5. An Anti-Ethical System**

This can't really work / function in the real world or a society

However, this follows logically from the Death of God Movement! If God is dead, all things are permissible & possible

Marxism(s) has replaced **this** thinking with power masquerading as ethics!

## **6. An Eclectic System**

**Judges 17:6** In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

**Judges 18:1** In those days there was no king in Israel: and in those days the tribe of the Danites sought them an inheritance to dwell in; for unto that day all their inheritance had not fallen unto them among the tribes of Israel.

**Judges 19:1** And it came to pass in those days, when there was no king in Israel, that there was a certain Levite sojourning on the side of mount Ephraim, who took to him a concubine out of Beth-lehem-judah.

**Judges 21:25** In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

As worldviews breakdown – ethics &/ ethical systems break down with them.

**This “system:”**

- **Is chaotic**
- **Is eclectic**
- **Is contradictory**
- **Is self-serving**
- **Is solipsistic → as many centers of ethics as we have people.**
- **Is changeable...like the weather!**