

What Are Your “Moral Instincts” or Natural Way of Making Moral Decisions?
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There is no right or wrong answers to these questions. Rather, you are asked to answer each question with the response that seems most natural to you and to your own way of making moral decisions.

- 1) A close friend confides that he/she is having an affair. You disapprove of this because:
 - a. Cheating on one's spouse is sneaky, dishonest, and a betrayal of trust; these are not qualities you like to see now in your friend.
 - b. It is wrong to be unfaithful in marriage; adultery is a violation of marriage vows.
 - c. You want the marriage to work, and it saddens you to think that the marriage of your close friends, which you valued and took for granted, has now deteriorated to this.
 - d. You fear that in the end your friend, his/her spouse, and their children will all be severely hurt by this experience and you see no good coming out of it.

- 2) You are a member of your hospital's ethics committee. A case is presented regarding an elderly patient with end stage cancer that has metastasized into the bones. He is now in your ICU in multiple organ system failure and ventilator-dependent. He lacks decision-making capacity and has no advance directives. His prognosis is poor and he is expected to die. His elderly wife insists, however, that “everything be done” to keep him alive. The attending physician wishes to wean the patient off the ventilator and “let nature take its course”. You believe the ethics committee should support the physician's decision because:
 - a. The patient is dying; keeping him on life support will only delay the inevitable, cause him and the family more suffering, and expend costly healthcare resources.
 - b. Families do not have a right to hold doctors and hospitals hostage by demanding medically futile treatments.
 - c. When this patient's heart finally stops, efforts to resuscitate him will break his bones and cause great bodily harm as he dies, frustrating and anguishing the caregivers forced to follow his wife's futile wishes.
 - d. Physicians and caregivers should not be forced to violate their professional obligation to provide medical treatments which, in their judgment, will cause significant harm to a patient with little likelihood of any corresponding benefit.

- 3) You make a New Year's resolution to be less critical and more supportive of your spouse, children, and friends because:
 - a. It's the right thing to do; all people should make a resolution at the start of a new year to improve themselves and to be better in their relationships.
 - b. You don't feel good about how you've been acting lately, and feel a need to rejuvenate your relationships.
 - c. You've been disappointed in yourself in how you've been acting lately and you want to become a better spouse/parent/friend.

- d. There has been a lot of bickering and misunderstanding lately, and your New Year's resolution will hopefully help everyone to get along better leading to a more pleasant home environment or a better overall outlook on life
- 4) You feel the management style of your administrative team has been too hierarchical. You would like to improve dialogue and team decision-making. You argue for this with your CEO saying:
 - a. These are essential ways to show respect for and promote dignity and self-respect.
 - b. We feel frustrated by our inability to impact key decisions; low morale is indicative of a problem here.
 - c. Pooling of ideas can lead to better results and better decision-making.
 - d. Part of being a good leader is to be able to dialogue with others and to make decisions by consensus.
 - 5) You are promoting budgeting for a special multi-disciplinary approach to address the needs of the dying and their families in your institution. Even though not all the costs of providing this service will be reimbursed, you nonetheless argue for this approach, saying:
 - a. This is a good way to make sure that our caregivers do not over-treat or under-treat the terminally ill, which is a chronic problem in our American healthcare system.
 - b. Not to address these needs contributes to interest in assisted suicide, which is morally wrong.
 - c. Part of our professional responsibility as caregivers is to address the special needs of the terminally ill in our community.
 - d. We often feel helpless in dealing with the dying and their loved ones; this service will provide us with an excellent way to compassionately respond to those most deserving of our care.
 - 6) Your elderly mother suffers a massive stroke and is now largely unresponsive with a poor prognosis. Years ago she made you her Power of Attorney with only one directive: "I trust you to do whatever is best for me." Her physician asks you about the insertion of a feeding tube into her stomach. You are reluctant to do so, because:
 - a. You don't think living like this is any good; as her son/daughter, you'd be letting your mom down if you didn't live up to your promise to do what you thought was best for her.
 - b. It tears you up inside to see your mom like this and you can't believe she'd want to have her life prolonged like this, and you can't stand the thought of this going on like this.
 - c. You don't see any good reason to give anyone, but especially your mom, a treatment that would only keep the body alive, but not the mind.
 - d. You can see how a feeding tube would be necessary to keep your mom alive, but if she ends up in a nursing home, bed-bound, "out of it," then it seems this is only going to prolong her suffering as well as your own grief.
 - 7) You were "let go" from your former healthcare position and given a relatively meager severance packet. You harbor some ill feelings about this. At your new healthcare position, you are occasionally given the opportunity, and are often tempted, to "bad mouth" your former bosses. Normally you refrain from this because:
 - a. You know you wouldn't feel right publicly expressing your negative feelings merely to keep "grinding the axe" against your former employer.

- b. You may create a negative impression about yourself at your new position.
 - c. You've never been the kind of person to "bad mouth" others.
 - d. In today's healthcare environment, it is not wise to "burn your bridges."
- 8) A member of your management team uses profanity at meetings. In private, you ask him to stop this because:
- a. You personally find this offensive and very inappropriate.
 - b. You are concerned that the use of profanity detracts from his contributing remarks.
 - c. The use of profanity casts his character in a bad light, especially in a meeting with fellow healthcare professionals.
 - d. It is wrong to use profanity, and its use is demeaning to everyone in the room.
- 9) Your widowed mother passes away. Your siblings begin to disagree over how to claim mementos from her house. You propose that everyone take turns selecting one item, because:
- a. We're a family; Mom wouldn't want her children fighting over her possessions.
 - b. It is fair; it is the most just and equitable way of dispensing mementos.
 - c. This will minimize bickering and assure that everyone has some special remembrances.
 - d. This is hard enough to do; why make it harder? When we are all dealing with our own grieving, we should at least be considerate of one another.
- 10) Your organization is involved in contract negotiations with another facility. You are contacted by a discontented, high-level employee from the competing company and offered critical information - for a price - that would allow your organization to be successful in efforts to obtain the contract. While you are sorely tempted to meet with this person to acquire this information, in the end you decide against doing this because:
- a. This would be wrong; it would violate the business rules of fair play and forthright negotiations.
 - b. You would feel dishonest doing this, and would be greatly offended if your competitor engaged in this practice.
 - c. You are not the kind of person to make deals "under the table," and you refuse to compromise on your own values and integrity.
 - d. There is always the possibility that your action would be discovered; this could not only potentially ruin the deal, but would also cause you embarrassment and quite likely limit your effectiveness in any future business negotiations.