

Morality

“What would you do if you found a bag money on the street? Would you take it for yourself? Give it away? Bring it to the police?” A question like this is asked often to determine a person’s outlook on the ideas of good versus bad natured decisions. Depending on how the subject questioned answers, the person’s idea of good and bad is supposed to be gauged. However, it’s hard to pinpoint and categorize human responses. When confronted with conflict, there is always incongruity in how each person would specifically react. It is possible to find similarities between responses, but usually every person has their own individual interpretation of what they should or should not do, and how they should go about doing it. Both external, societal factors, and internal factors (such as conscience) play a role in the development and execution of one’s standards of morality.

In our contemporary society in the U.S., it is hard to escape the preformed notions of what is right and what is wrong. Our judicial laws govern the way most citizens view the value of certain actions, or for that matter, inactions. For instance, it is illegal to do certain drugs, therefore a negative stigma is cast on the people who use these illicit drugs. In other parts of the world, where the moral standards are slightly shifted, the same drugs can be used without any fear or penalization or societal. Also, it is considered illegal in some parts of our country to not assist a person who is becoming the victim of a crime. Although many would argue that it is immoral to not assist someone in danger, it is not necessarily so cut and dry.