



ETHICS – DEFINITION

Eth-ics

n. (eth"iks)

[Cf. F. *éthique*. See ETHIC.]

The science of human duty; the body of rules of duty drawn from this science; a particular system of principles and rules concerting duty, whether true or false; rules of practice in respect to a single class of human actions; as, political or social *ethics*; medical *ethics*.

Webster's 1913 Dictionary.

Ethics. Of or relating to moral action, conduct, motive or character; as, ethical emotion; also, treating of moral feelings, duties or conduct; containing precepts of morality; moral. Professionally right or befitting; conforming to professional standards of conduct.

Black's Law Dictionary With Pronunciations, Fifth Edition.

Ethics.

Also called **moral philosophy** the discipline concerned with what is morally good and bad, right and wrong. The term is also applied to any system or theory of moral values or principles.

How should we live? Shall we aim at happiness or at knowledge, virtue, or the creation of beautiful objects? If we choose happiness, will it be our own or the happiness of all? And what of the more particular questions that...

Encyclopedia Britannica (on line).

eth ic (eth'ik) *n.* 1. A principle of right or good conduct or a body of such principles.

2. A system of moral principles or values. 3. **ethics** (*takes sing. v.*) The study of the general nature of morals and of specific moral choices. 4. **ethics** (*takes sing. or pl. v.*) The rules or standards governing the conduct of the members of a profession. [<Gk. *thos*, character.]

The American Heritage Dictionary, Third Edition.