

ETHICS AS IT RELATES TO GOD, FAMILY, AND
DUTY

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Ethics are a foundation on which every person operates. Ethics is difficult to understand because every person has his or her own ethics. Most dilemmas occur because of a conflict in ethics. Webster's New World Dictionary defines Ethics as "the study of standards of conduct and moral judgment and the system of morals of a particular person, religion, group etc". I define ethics as knowing what is right and what is wrong. Ethics are hard to understand because of the complexity, standards, laws, and beliefs each person must follow. Ethics affect all areas of one's life. For example, in most states, a marriage is a union between a man and a woman. However, some states are allowing two people of the same sex to marry. Therefore, I have an ethical dilemma with states that allow two people of the same sex to marry because of my ethics. It is okay to disagree with someone's ethics but we should respect them. Ethics, like many things in my life, fit into three different categories. The first category is God, the second is family, and the third is duty.

God is the head of my life and my ethics should surround pleasing him. I acknowledge that God is in control of all things. My ethics force me to pray to my God in order to function properly as a person and conform to the way He would have me to go. I recognize my moral standards (ethics) permit me to understand that God is King of Kings and no other god is before Him. Surely, my ethics should not allow me to take my Lord's name in vain, nor commit murder, adultery, steal, or bear false witness against my neighbor. My ethic is the inner core (conscience) that tells me to pray for all the people that are in power and authority over me, people that aren't, and the people whom I have power and authority over. With God as the head of my life, I am able to make good ethical decisions.

The second category is family. As the spiritual, physical, and mental leader of my home, I am responsible for leading my family down the right path utilizing standards of conduct and

moral judgment (ethics). In my home this is done with a lot of prayer, love, trust, rewards, and punishments. As the head of the household, it is my responsibility to use proper ethics in all situations. Proper ethics is vital to ensure success both spiritually and physically within my family. It is my duty to protect and keep the integrity of my family ethics intact. As a family, our ethics are our guideline to success. Sometimes we make mistakes, however, we must learn from them. Some mistakes can be harmful or even kill. That is why it is so important to correct your kids when they make mistakes. You are providing them with the tools necessary to be good parents when they have kids. They will realize over time that the punishments received were in love. Society will raise your kids if you do not step up to the plate. You would not believe the kinds of things that go on even in elementary school. The peer pressure at times is unbearable for our kids but kids that come from homes with good communication seem to survive. The kids are well informed and taught right from wrong. Discipline also plays a key role. When our kids face questionable decisions most of the time, they will do what is right because they realize that they will have to pay a price for the wrong choice.

The third category is duty. As a leader, my ethics will determine my success or failure in my organization. My ethics will not allow me to deviate or differentiate from me treating people the way I want to them to treat me. My ethics will remind me never to forget where I came from. Some leaders are under the impression that with an increase in rank starts a decrease in ethics, it should be the reverse. I experienced such treatment from one of my previous leaders and I vowed never to compromise my ethics because of my position. As leaders, it is our responsibility to ensure we make decisions for the right reasons. We cannot allow personal feelings or resentment for an individual to cloud our judgment. In our business Soldiers rely on us to provide them with the tools for success. They have to trust that the decisions we make are

at the best interest for all involved. With proper use of my ethics, I am able to listen, and offer good sound advice without being judgmental. I believe I should lead by example. When people see you doing the right thing, they are more prone to follow you. You should never display questionable ethics. Make every attempt to maintain your integrity.

Ethics is doing what is right at all times. Sometimes we believe we can get away with things because no one is watching. Someone sees every thing you do especially God. He will guide you through all situations if you just call on Him. So when you face questionable decisions and you are not sure what to do just pray and everything will be okay.