

Jasmyne Moore

Dr. Dueck

PHI101

Spring 2020

Are we all ethically challenged?

How can we change in this world? Do we really make our own decisions? Are the decisions we make good? Are they bad? These questions come across my mind when I think of ethical virtue and how we make decisions use interactions repeatedly in order to make sure that is the way we want to act or be. The real question is can we control our own happiness? Can we change the way we behave in each situation based off who's involved? Ethical virtue plays a huge role in our decision making and here is why. To start, let's discuss what ethical virtue is and how it affects us in our day to day lives. Ethical virtue is gained through or comes out from habit. It is made up of two kinds intellectual and ethical. Intellectual is made up of experience, teachings, and time while ethical is made up of habit (ethos). Ethically people cannot be swayed to behave from the way they naturally behave because it is our natural habit (Cottingham, 367) which means that in any given situation that a person is in let's say fear they will either act negatively towards one another or not which will affect the results of our behaviors and how our interactions and ethical decision making are affected. With this we gain certain habits and reactions that we constantly use in a certain situation if it is with fear and we run away to survive or fight to protect those around them. Next, Aristotle consistently argues that living to virtue is the key to achieving happiness, meaning that the end for man is pursuit is to achieve virtue alone. What is happiness? How can one truly be happy? This answer can vary in numerous ways but it is all through how the person feels with pleasure and how it makes them feel good which could either be a nice bowl of ice cream or a tight hug either way we interact with this virtue and are always told to make a certain choice to what makes us truly happy. To continue, Aristotle discusses how virtue

Jasmyne Moore

Dr. Dueck

PHI101

Spring 2020

Are we all ethically challenged?

can affect a person morally. He states that A moral virtue is a disposition to act as the morally reasonable person would or with respect to feelings, such as what it is that makes an individual person is good or a bad way in our feelings. For instance, when we are upset in a bad way our feelings are weakened while their multiple volumes of feeling can make us be able to have feelings like pity. This brings to me my final point how can one be good? According to Aristotle a activities and actions are rational and that it is all through virtue. Which explains how when a person makes a certain decision it is all out of habit and what is considered the right thing to do in that individual's eyes. Let's go into further detail with an example.

For instance, with virtue we practice our techniques through hearing and seeing. So, if an individual decides that they want to drive down a one-way street even though it could result into a head on collision with another vehicle that person will be put into an ethical dilemma. That person will either choose to make that risk or not. They will go through scenarios in their mind thinking that if they go down and there isn't a car then they made it to their destination faster than if they went the other way but if it happens that the individual drives down the way when another car comes it could add more time to get to where they wanted to be and even could result into death if it is a lot of impact. If you think you know what that person is going to do you may or not guessed right but that person will choose their natural habit that they do daily which could either be to go the right way or they choose to go down the one way street and always risk it. This virtue could be ethically wrong, or it could be ethically right many will disagree for each but none of us really know what is right and what is wrong because we are all taught differently.

Jasmyne Moore

Dr. Dueck

PHI101

Spring 2020

Are we all ethically challenged?

In conclusion, Ethical virtue can make a person react in many ways because it is simply our habit to either run away from a house burning on fire or running towards it to save the people on the inside but either way it has made us decide things that we do to pleasure ourselves and others. We are human and we practice new ways of deciding every day we are “Behaving in a certain way with our dealings with human beings some of us become just and others unjust” (Cottingham, 368) Which is telling us how we all can have habits that will either be immoral or moral , good or bad, but those are the virtues that we have learned and will continue to teach as we have children of our own and tell them what is good and what is bad . In the end, everyone’s feelings will affect their judgement whether be love, fear, anger, or happiness we will decide what our natural habit will be because we’ve practiced for years and years so why would we decide to change it now.