

Questions

1. What is the one key difference between deontological ethics and character ethics?
 - a. Deontological ethics focuses on the ethics of actions, whereas character ethics focuses on the morality or character of the individual for its ethicalness.
2. How does care ethics differ from justice ethics?
 - a. Care ethics in moral development emphasizes various responsibilities and takes a personable approach to morality, whereas justice ethics emphasizes a series of fixed concepts such as truth and fairness.
3. What is the foundation of Macintyre's character ethics?
 - a. His character ethics finds its foundation in communities and their perspectives, so communities create the meaning of its worldview and therefore its ethics.
4. How does Hauerwas's character ethics differ from others in this chapter?
 - a. Hauerwas believes that there is no such thing as stand-alone ethics, instead individual's beliefs and convictions shape actions and ethics.
5. List one positive and negative aspect of virtue ethics when told from a Christian perspective.
 - a. Character ethics aligns with Christian ethics in that ethics is more than doing the right thing but about being the right type of person. Character ethics sways from a Christian school of thought in that it only takes into account the character and often forgets the intention behind actions.

Terms

Virtue Ethics: ethics which focus on inner character and answers the question of who someone should be versus what they should do

Golden Mean: one of Aristotle's doctrines which states that virtues are a mean between an excess and defect

Telos: the ending purpose or effect of an action

Summary

The second chapter discusses character or virtue ethics which is a form of ethics that focuses on the morality of an individual person instead of an individual action. Character ethics seeks to answer the question of what someone should be. Various intellectuals have fallen into this guide of thinking such as Aristotle and his perfect balance of traits being pique virtuousness. Other modern thinkers such as Macintyre and Hauerwas place community or individual beliefs as the shaping of morality and ethics instead of actions. Although virtue ethics aligns with the Christian narrative of the heart's role in individual's actions of right and wrong, it does not take into account intention and can sometimes place too much responsibility on character versus the action itself.