

VALUES, ETHICS, MORALS, PRINCIPLES, ETC.

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VALUES are life-style priorities - i.e. knowing a person's values gives a reasonable idea of **what** type of life-style the person is leading/or wants to lead. Two examples illustrate this:

A person whose highest priority values are **ACHIEVEMENT/SUCCESS**, **WORK/CONFIDENCE**, **ADMINISTRATION MANAGEMENT**, **INSTITUTION** and **LOYALTY** is likely to be/or wants to be a loyal member of an organisation where her/his life revolves around becoming competent in the skills necessary to become successful in that organisation. The person puts much energy into organising her/his life to maximise the chances of success.

A person whose highest priority values are **FAMILY/BELONGING**, **CARE/NURTURE**, **BELONGING/LIKED**, and **PLAY** is likely to devote most of her/his time to their family and/or friends.

Knowing a person's values gives you a general idea of the behaviours in which they will engage (i.e. it "gives you the **WHAT** they want to 'get into'". It does not tell you specifically **HOW** they are likely to live their life.

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STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR or **CODES OF BEHAVIOUR** such as **ETHICS**, **MORALS**, etc. are concerned with **how** we live our values. For example, if we know a person's ethical stance we would know whether or not they would be likely to cheat in order to be successful (i.e. their ethical stance impacts on how the person lives the value **ACHIEVEMENT/SUCCESS**). Another example would be a person whose highest priority values are say **NEW ORDER** and **CORPORATE MISSION**. This person could be a "Hitler" or a "Ghandi" - their values are the same but their ethical/moral stances are worlds apart.

People who are concerned with living their values according to **ETHICAL** and/or **MORAL STANDARDS** are said to be **PRINCIPLE** driven.

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Where do principles come from?

In the case of morals or appropriate behaviour in society, they are generally derived from principles that are passed on to us through the teachings of a particular culture or religion.

Thus, the Sunday School Student is taught principles such as:

- Love thy neighbour as thy self,
- Do unto others as you would like them to do unto you,
- Thou shalt not kill, etc.

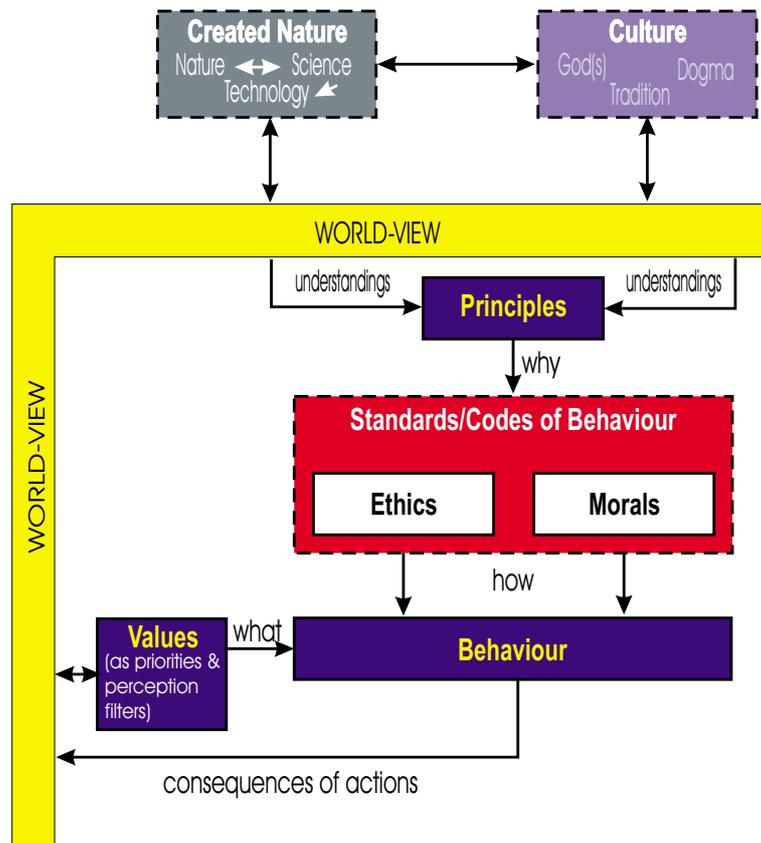
The School Student is taught to work and study hard and not to cheat to be successful.

In the case of ethics, the principles from which they are derived generally come from the understanding of learned people in the relevant behavioural field (medical research, garbage collection, child punishment, etc.). In days gone by, these learned people would have been the village elders. Today our "experts" are scientists, educators, politicians, activists, etc. In all cases the experts rely on an enquiry of nature to understand "the nature of things" - i.e. what will work

and what won't work, what will cause problems and what won't cause problems (long term or short term). The Hanover Principles included with this handout are an example.

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The diagram below summaries the above discussion.



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Even thieves have values, it's their lack of principles that makes them different to others.

Titmuss

Social policies are concerned with the right ordering of the network of relationships between men and women who live together in societies, or with the principles which should govern the activities of individuals and groups so far as they affect the lives and interests of other people.

Prof. Macbeath

A moral or ethical statement may assert that some particular action is right or wrong; or that cations of certain kinds are so; it may offer a distinction between good and bad characters or dispositions; or it may propound some broad principle from which more detailed judgements of these sorts might be inferred.

John Mackie

For more information on values, etc., checkout VEN's website at: www.zygon.cnhost.com

THE HANOVER PRINCIPLES

Insist on the right of humanity and nature to co-exist in a healthy, supportive, diverse and sustainable condition.

Recognise interdependence. The elements of human design interact with and depend upon the natural world, with broad and diverse implications at every scale. Expand design considerations to recognise even distant effects.

Respect relationships between spirit and matter. Consider all aspects of human settlement, including community, dwelling, industry and trade in terms of existing and evolving connections between spiritual and material consciousness.

Accept responsibility for the consequences of design decisions upon human well-being, the viability of natural systems, and their right to coexist.

Create safe objects of long-term value. Do not burden future generations with requirements for maintenance or vigilant administration of potential danger due to the careless creation of products, processes or standards.

Eliminate the concept of waste. Evaluate and optimise the full lifecycle of product and processes to approach natural systems, in which there is no waste.

Rely on natural energy flows. Human designs should, like the living world, derive their creative forces from perpetual solar income. Incorporate this energy efficiently and safely for responsible use.

Understand the limitations of design. No human creation lasts forever, and design does not solve all problems. Those who create and plan should practice humility in the face of nature. Treat nature as a model and mentor, not an inconvenience to be evaded and controlled.

Seek constant improvement by the sharing of knowledge. Encourage direct and open communication between colleagues, patrons, manufacturers and users to link long-term sustainable considerations with ethical responsibility, and to establish the integral relationship between natural processes and human activity.

The Hanover Principles should be seen as a living document committed to transformation and growth in the understanding of our interdependence with nature, so that they may adapt as our knowledge of the world evolves.