

news8_international

THE NOSE POLICY

A short report on how
the “ethics” many of us
follow aren’t really
“ethical” at all.

Over the past 2,000 years, the human race has changed dramatically in the way it cooperates between groups. At the start of the species, there was no contact between the isolated tribes that scattered the Earth. Conflict was scarce as there was usually no one to battle. As populations boomed and tribes developed into kingdoms and nations, the race was thrust into what we know as “society”. The loneliness that was once among us everywhere was replaced with increasingly large amounts of communication and gossip. As the Information Age arrived, bringing the enormous social capabilities of the Internet and the instant spread of news via television, we humans had more and more to talk about – more and more to *complain* about.

Now, in the 21st century, people are debating about even the least important of issues. We take every opportunity to gossip and argue about every single little news item that pops up in the world. As our opinions collide, our connections weaken as huge masses of the population divide over the least threatening or urgent of bulletins.

Why do we take the time and energy to debate these unimportant social issues? One simple word answers the entire question: *ethics*. The ideal that, to be “good”, something must conform to some imagined “standards”. Religions across the world are based on the concept of “ethics”; each has their own guidelines, many of which are outdated and extremely vague, that their followers conform to. Many people, notably politicians, have their own ethics standards which they preach upon to their fans and supporters. And the majority of the population (those who aren’t religious leaders or elected officials) takes their slice of the moral pie.

Most people, notably in the United States, follow their faith’s ethics standards (in this case, Christian rules) and hold them up as the ultimate and fully binding decree of what is “good” and “bad” in the universe. Homosexuals are “bad”. Mega-million dollar churches are “good”. Abortion is “bad”. Abstinence is “good”. And the list goes on.

The monotheistic religions, Christianity, Judaism and Islam, make up a majority of the believers in the world (estimated at about 90% of the human population), so monotheistic ethics make up a majority of the standards accepted by people in the world. These three faiths are basically on the same level when it comes to ethics – **on murder**: “thou shall not kill”; **on homosexuality**: “If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.” (Leviticus 20:13); **divorce**: “I tell you that whoever puts away his wife, except for the cause of sexual immorality, makes her an adulteress; and whoever marries her when she is put away commits adultery.” (Matthew 5:31) – and so on. These ideals are long outdated and are not compatible with the much more liberal and intelligent world that we now populate.

Nevertheless, these ethics standards are still abode to by many. The over-religious of the world go as far as imposing these standards as law in their nations. People are made to abide by rules that should never find their way into modern society. Those who do things frowned upon by the set ethics standards of the three monotheistic religions are heavily criticized as other people **stick their noses in business that they shouldn’t care about**. For example, take the recent case of the “octomom” – Nadya Suleman. After giving birth to a whopping 8 children through a “questionable” IVF procedure, she was suddenly thrust into the spotlight by international media corporations. At first, public response was of affection and sympathy, but this quickly fell into disgust and anger over the “ethics” of how her children were conceived, the fact that she had already birthed 6 other sons and

daughters before the extra 8, and the living conditions under which they are being brought up. Across the United States Suleman was the subject of criticism and jokes. This hatred continues to this day, with many citizens, most notably conservative Christians, going to long lengths to harm her.

In reality, all this outrage over an “ethics” “violation” is hardly necessary. Yes, it is true that Suleman had six children before the multiple births, she has virtually no income and her octuplets were born “unnaturally”; but this is hardly an important issue in the modern world. The international economy is in a deep recession, oil prices have hit the bottom and North Korea is “testing” a “satellite”, but we are sitting here discussing how “stupid” and “disgusting” it is to have eight children through IVF? I hardly care what a Californian named Nadya Suleman does with her life, or how she had her children. I have my own worries to fret over and my own problems to sort out, and I can get by in the world knowing that some woman unexpectedly birthed octuplets. Sure, it may not be “ethical”, but my ethics standards that I have composed are much more reasonable than the ones conservatives believe in. My standards don’t rule over how people run their lives. My standards are reasonable, composed and clear:

1. Do not murder, or murder in the name of another murder.
2. Do not force rules upon others that are unreasonable, objectionable, biased or personal (such as religious guidelines).
3. Do not interfere with the lives of others.
4. Do not “own” your offspring.
5. Do not practice religion or faith to the point where you are making statements that clearly go against the flow and sum of human knowledge and rights.
6. Do not physically or emotionally harm others outright.
7. Do not encourage violence in any case whatsoever.
8. Do not limit the freedoms of others (examples: school dress codes, the PATRIOT ACT, the banning of gay marriage, ect.)
9. Do not make actions or statements that harm the advancement of the species.
10. Do not overly harm the environment around you or the other living creatures that inhabit it. (“Overly harm” meaning do not hurt the environment to the extent where it pollutes, kills a number of animals/plants to the extent where the population is beyond repair, or reduces the aesthetics of the landscape to a disturbing point.)

These ethics principles are much more compatible with modern society and protect civil rights instead of degrading them. I hope, in the future, that the human race will look up to guidelines like these instead of the extremely negligent ones we hold dear currently.

We should not be so picky and nosy as we are now. It seems that every week, another news item pops up discussing some “outrageous”, “disgusting” “ethics” “failure”, but usually it is a case that none of us should care about. *Gasp!* Michael Phelps was taking drugs? Well, he failed to harm any of us – why should we care? We shouldn’t. Again, I hardly care if Michael Phelps smoked pot, he caused no damage and barley hurt himself, either.

We all have heard about John Lennon’s classic “bigger than Jesus” statement back in the mid 1960s. Should the people back then have reacted so violently? Why should anyone care about what one of the Beatles “reportedly” said about Christianity? Is it some international crisis, like a terrorist

attack, or does it just violate “moral standards”? Even if it does violate those golden rules, “ethics”, it didn’t to any real harm to anyone – it was just a misstatement.

However, there are some small issues which we *should* fret over. An excellent example is the inclusion of “under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance. While it seems like a hardly important issue in the terribly unstable, helter-skelterish world we work and play in today, it still violates the core principle that the United States of America was founded upon: the separation of church and state. The atheist and non-believer population in the U.S. is currently higher than the Jewish population and growing at an alarming rate. We should not – and constitutionally can not – force the ideal of a “God” upon children who do not have one. It violates one of my “ethics standards”, and it violates the very first amendment of the Constitution.

However, for all those ridiculous issues that pop up every day in the news, we should continue on with our lives instead of arguing over them. The world is much too large for people to even care one bit about octuplets, drug users or Michael Jackson’s appearance. Please, I beg of the people out there, the readers, to follow the new 10 “commandments” that I listed on the previous page. If you abide by those instead of the ancient Biblical ones found on courthouse lawns today, your life and the lives of others will be much easier than they were before. Keep your nose where it belongs: in your life. That is the nose policy.

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