

Ethics versus Morals Comparison Chart

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A person strictly following Ethical Principles may not have any Morals at all. Likewise, one could violate Ethical Principles within a given system of rules in order to maintain Moral integrity.

Because we believe in something being right or wrong.

Morality transcends cultural norms.

Principles or habits with respect to right or wrong conduct. While morals also prescribe dos and don'ts, morality is ultimately a personal compass of right and wrong.

Latin word "mos", meaning "custom"

The rules of conduct recognized in respect to a particular class of human actions or a particular group or culture.

Ethics are dependent on others for definition. They tend to be consistent within a certain context, but can vary between contexts.

Greek word "ethos", meaning "character"

Social system - External

Usually consistent, although can change if an individual's beliefs change.

Because society says it is the right thing to do.

Ethics are governed by professional and legal guidelines within a particular time and place.

Individual - Internal

Ethics	Morals
What are they?	
Where do they come from?	
Why we do it?	
Flexibility	
The "Gray"	
Origin	
Acceptability	