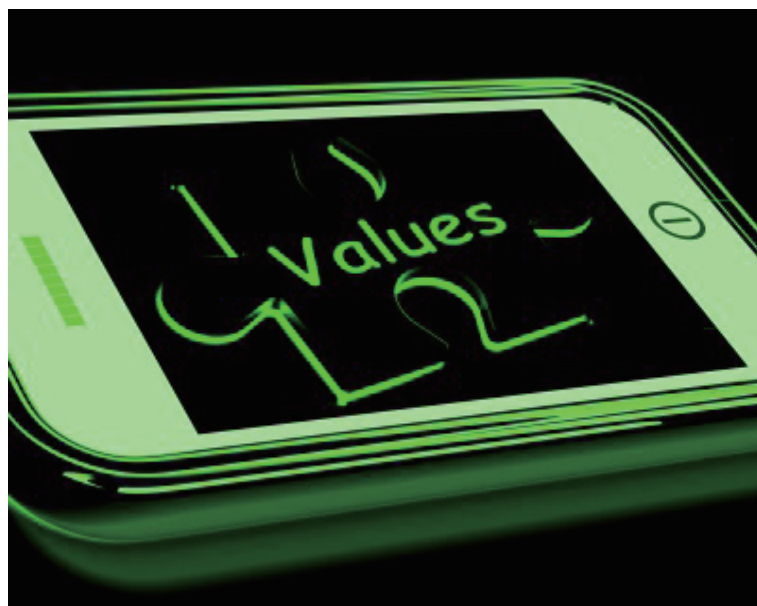


Morality



(Image courtesy of Stuart Miles / FreeDigitalPhotos.net)

Reading

We can use the scientific method to learn something about the nature of physical reality, but we have no accurate instruments to test morality. We have a moral compass, of course, called a conscience; but it has no external testability. We may have religious beliefs, laws, and social norms to guide our behavior, and of course we learn correct attitudes from our parents, teachers, and friends—but none of these methods are universal. This diverse modern age we live in compounds the problem further: the times seem to get increasingly ambiguous morally, and skepticism about everything is becoming more and more ordinary. Indeed, many people scoff at the very idea of moral certainty. They claim that all morality is situational, that the "right" behavior varies from time to time, place to place, and circumstance to circumstance. Others go even further, insisting that socially-imposed ethics are alien to the liberty of a free individual. Under this notion, we should all choose for ourselves what behavior is acceptable and honorable, and be accountable only to our own consciences. However, morality cannot be merely a private code of conduct; it is also a matter of community standards of behavior and practice, with the purpose of promoting decent, harmonious relations among us all.

You can see the whole lesson from your teacher, please ask them to send it to you before the class.

テキスト全文はレッスン受講時に担当講師よりお受け取りください。