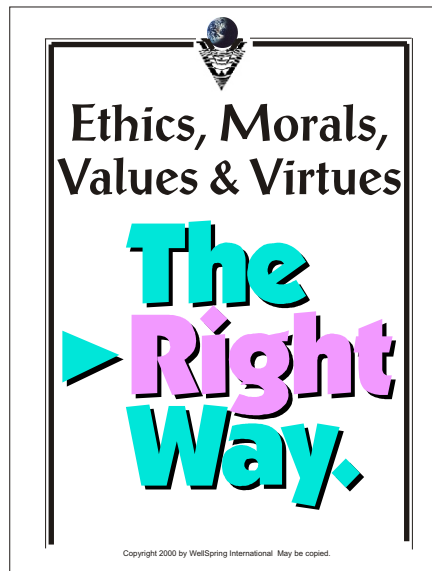




# Getting to the Bottom of Values





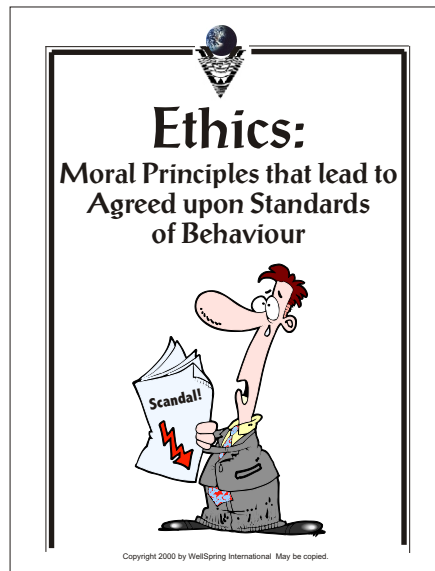
## Key Points

- \* **There is a lot of confusions about values, ethics, morals and virtues.**
- \* **They are often used interchangeably when discussing the right thing to do.**
- \* **While there is a lot of similarity in the meaning of these terms each points to something fundamentally different.**
- \* **Each one points to the same goal - the right way to be or to do something and each uses a different criterion.**
- \* **It is there basis or criterion by which success or failure is judged that makes them different.**



# Ethics, Morals, Values & Virtues

# ▶ The Right Way.



## Key Points

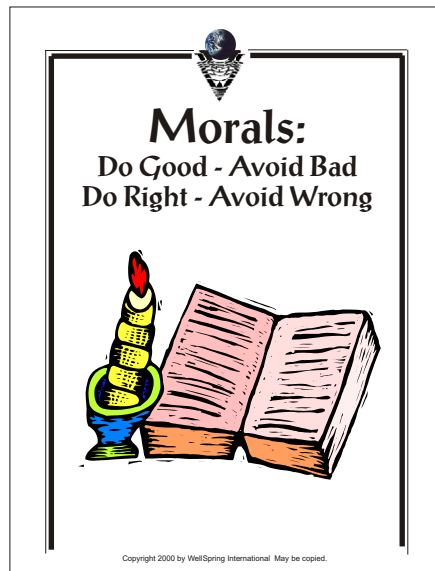
- \* **Ethics are designed and developed by various communities to establish standards of day-to-day behaviour.**
- \* **Ethics are linked to fundamental principles that all the members agree to live by.**
- \* **The principles are codified into an ethics statement or a code of conduct that establishes the minimum acceptable behaviour required to remain a member of the community.**
- \* **When the code is violated, even though the behaviour in question might be perfectly legal, the community moves to support its own standards.**
- \* **Since ethics are developed by a community to reflect principles it holds dear the community can change the principles, ethics or code of conduct based on them.**



# Ethics:

Moral Principles that lead to  
Agreed upon Standards  
of Behaviour





## Key Points

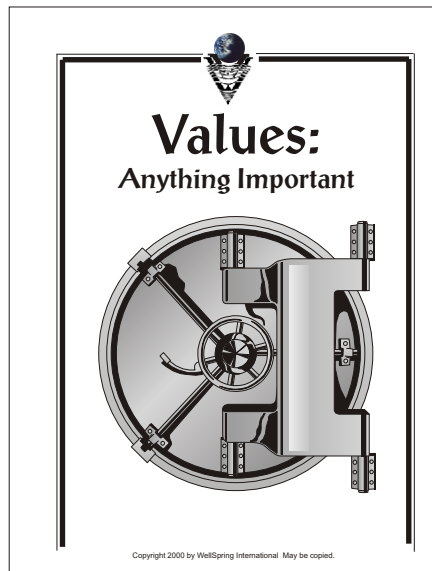
- \* **Morals define what is good and what is bad ~ they define right and wrong.**
- \* **Often moral judgements have an absolute quality to them.**
- \* **This is because most moral frameworks are based on an explicit text ~ typically religious ~ where a power greater than human beings call for the best human beings are capable of.**
- \* **Most moral frameworks are not subject to alteration by mere mortals although the interpretation and application of the written word varies from age to age.**



# Morals:

Do Good - Avoid Bad  
Do Right - Avoid Wrong





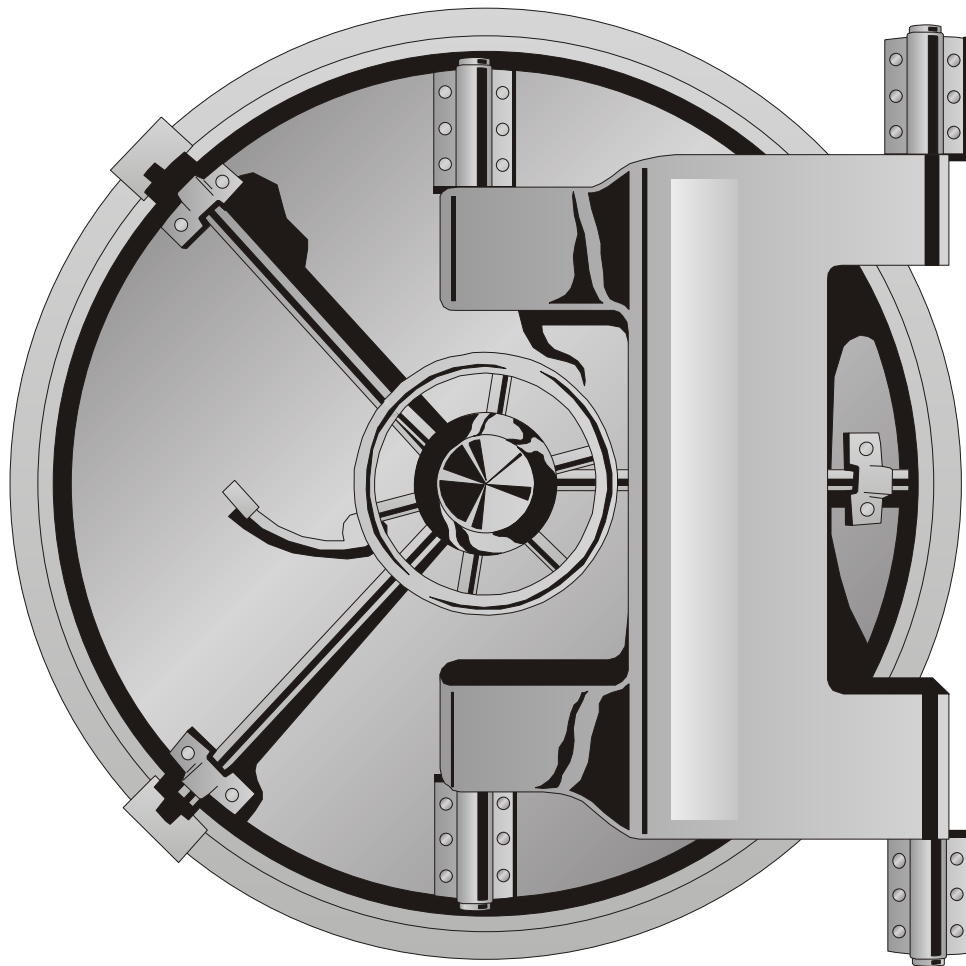
## Key Points

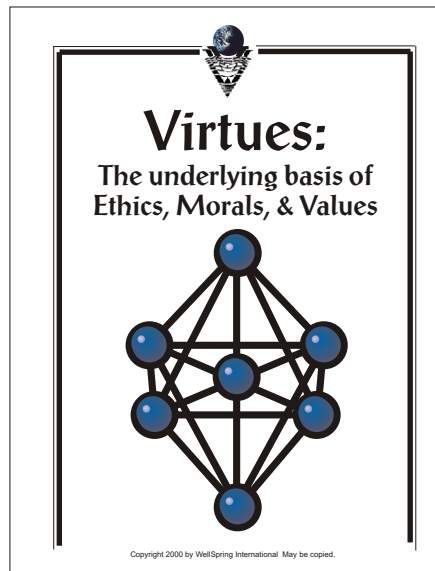
- \* **Values are what anyone considers important or worth seeking.**
- \* **You can value money or fame ~ you can value winning regardless of what it takes to win ~ you can value love.**
- \* **Values often vary from person to person and often an admired individual can define what is important for all those who admire her/him.**
- \* **Often things like family values are discussed as if they a codified series of values that everyone agrees is important even though each person might have a different set of values for her/his family than the neighbor.**



# Values:

## *Anything Important*





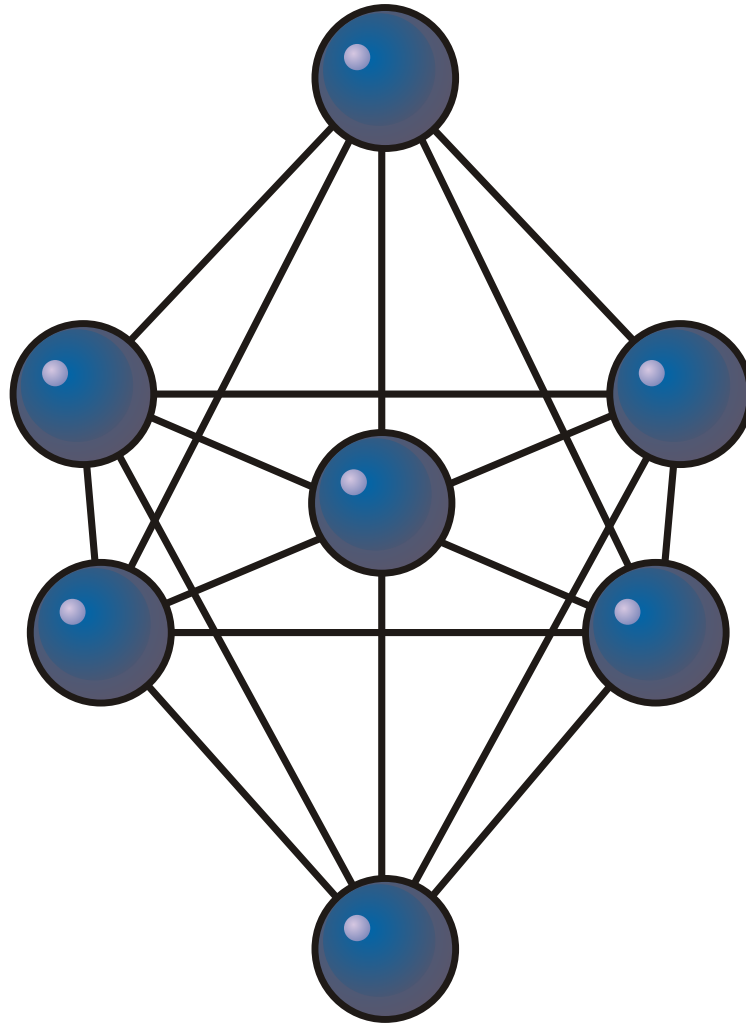
# Key Points

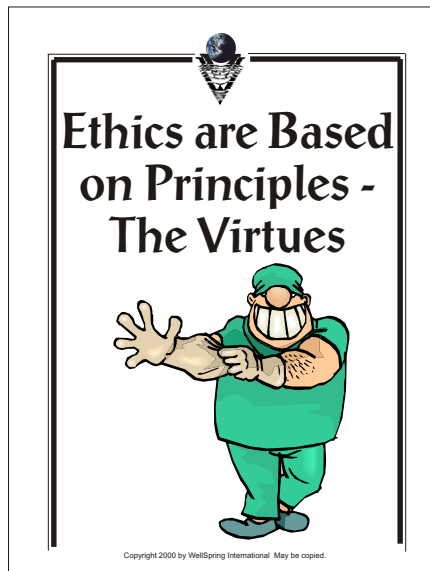
- \* **Virtues are similar to Ethics, Morals and Values in that they show the right way to be and how to live.**
- \* **They are, however, more fundamental than each of these three because they can form the foundation for each of them.**
- \* **They are universal principles by which all societies organize themselves.**
- \* **They are the ways we are called to be ~ the best within each of us as defined by the Revealed Texts of the World's Religions.**
- \* **They are the keys to success in any individual endeavour and the basis of every relationship that works.**



# **Virtues:**

## **The underlying basis of Ethics, Morals, & Values**





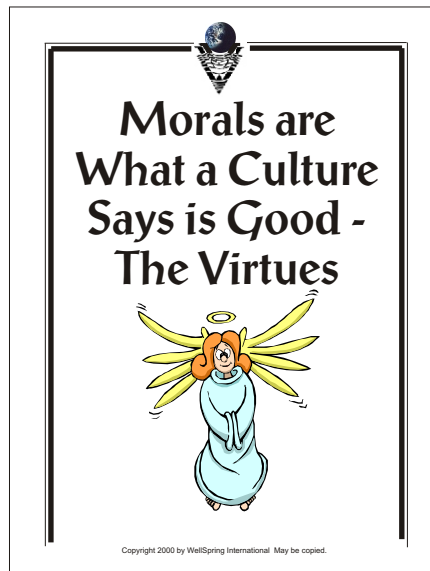
## Key Points

- \* **Ethics are based on principles that communities agree are fundamental.**
- \* **The most enduring principles are the Virtues. Communities can be organized around Justice, Love or Peace.**
- \* **By focusing on the Virtues Ethics become expressions of how that Virtue will be practiced within the community.**
- \* **With the Virtue at the core, the application of the Virtue may change from time to time while the core Virtue remains the same.**



# Ethics are Based on Principles - The Virtues



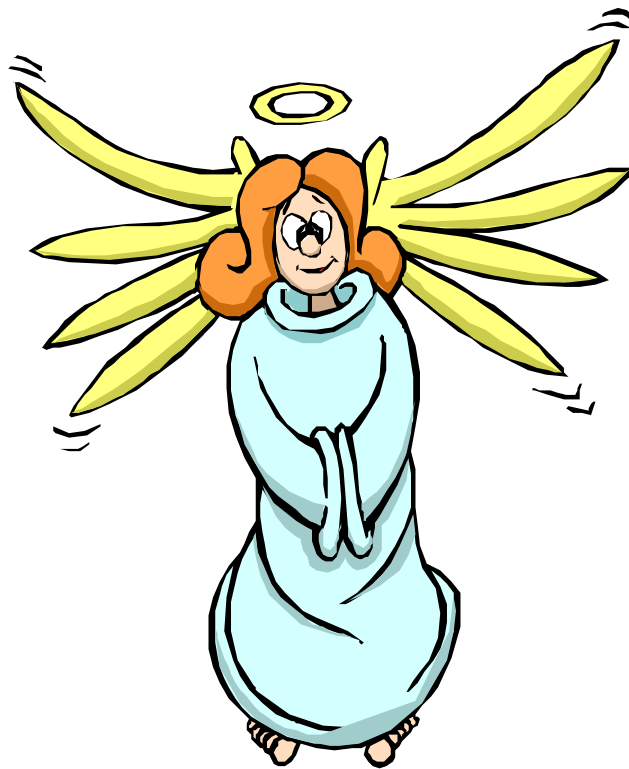


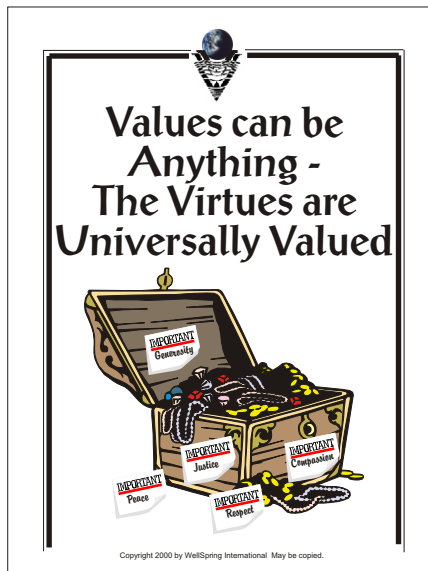
## Key Points

- \* **Each of the world's Revealed Religions have spawned a culture based on their Book.**
- \* **The Revealed Text varies from age to age and often calls for different laws at different times.**
- \* **These differences have often caused great conflicts within and between the various communities and led to Christian values, Muslim values, etc.**
- \* **Yet, running through all Revealed Texts and the moral codes contained within them, like a silver thread, are the Virtues.**
- \* **They are the spiritual teachings that do not vary from age to age although the emphasis may shift somewhat. They are always what it means to be good.**



# Morals are What a Culture Says is Good - The Virtues



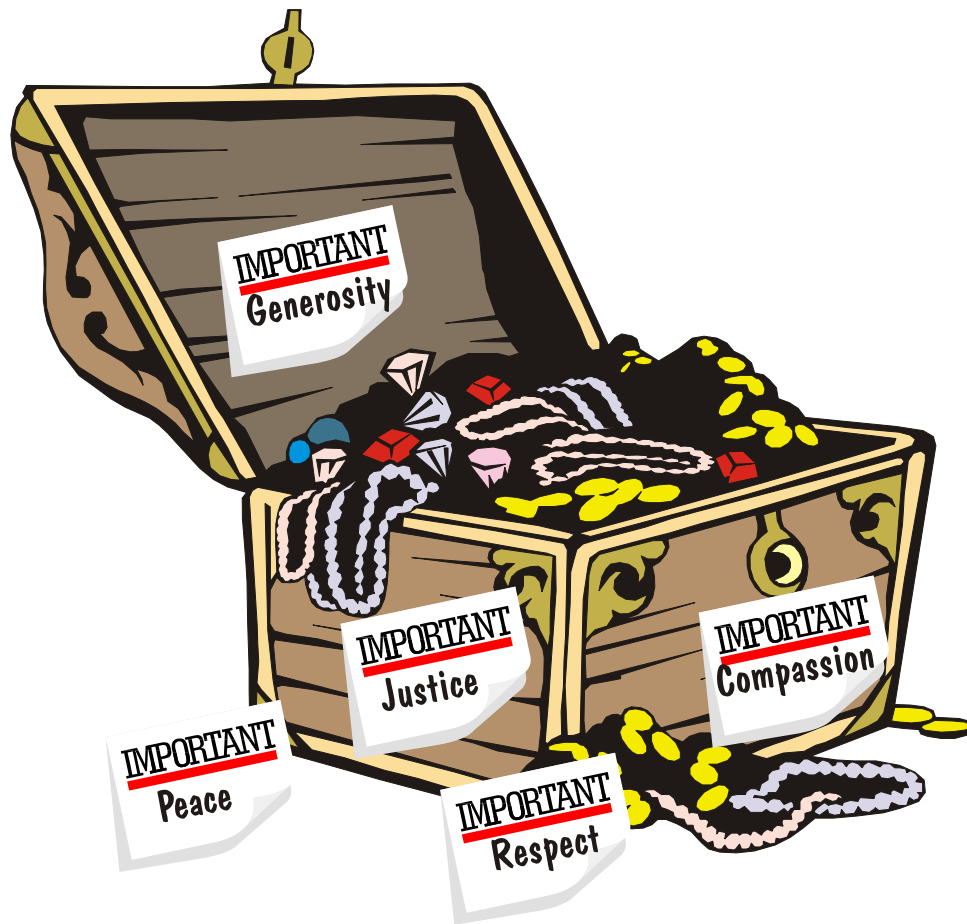


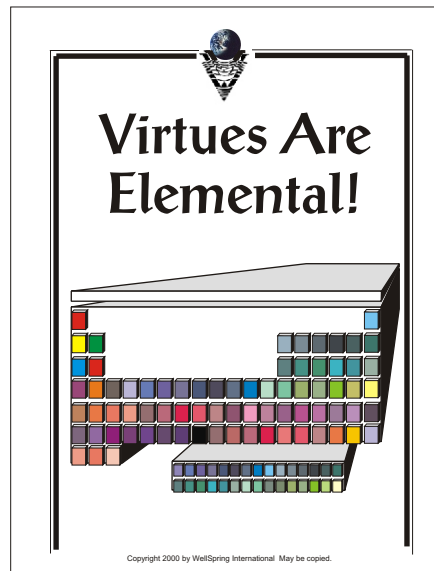
## Key Points

- \* **While values can be anything ~ the Virtues are universally valued.**
- \* **They may be practiced differently from community to community but at the core will be the same Virtue.**
- \* **They may not be the only values but they will always find a place among them. Even those who want to win regardless of how expect some respect for their victory.**



# Values can be Anything - The Virtues are Universally Valued





## Key Points

- \* **Just as all of the molecules on the earth are made up of the same chemical elements so the Ethics, Morals and Values of humanity are made up of one or more of the Virtues.**
- \* **Justice without mercy would be a different Value than Justice and Mercy.**
- \* **An Ethical system that is formed of a combination of respect, responsibility and service would be a different system if responsibility was replaced with a profit motive.**
- \* **What is good in any Moral framework often calls for balancing one Virtue with another to meet the challenge of the moment.**
- \* **Using the Virtues in such a combinational way will give you access to every Ethical, Moral & Value system.**



# Virtues Are Elemental!

