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# **Ethics and Science and Ethics as a Scientific Method**

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# **Part I**

# **Ethics and Science**



# 1 Faith and Science: God's gifts

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- **Faith:** trust in God's providence in his good creation
- **Providence:** God cares, here and now, every day.
- Does it then mean we must not care ourselves?
- **John Calvin** against «Sophists» (fatalists): «The profane make such a bluster with their foolish puerilities that they almost, according to the expression, confound heaven and earth. If the Lord has marked the moment of our death, it cannot be escaped, - it is vain to toil and use precaution. Therefore, when one ventures not to travel on a road which he hears is infested by robbers; when another calls in the physician, and annoys himself with drugs, for the sake of his health; a third abstains from coarser food, that he may not injure a sickly constitution;



# 1 Faith and Science

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and a fourth fears to dwell in a ruinous house; when all, in short, devise, and with great eagerness of mind, strike out paths by which they may attain the objects of their desire; either these are all vain remedies; laid hold of to correct the will of god, or his certain decree does not fix the limits of life and death, health and sickness, peace and war, and other matters. ... The eternal decrees of God by no means prevent us from proceeding, under his will, to provide for ourselves, and arrange all our affairs. *For he who has fixed the boundaries of our life, has at the same time entrusted us with the care of it, provided us with the means of preserving it, forewarned us of the dangers to which we are exposed, and supplied cautions and remedies, that we may not be overwhelmed unawares.*» (Institutio, I/17,4)



# 1 Faith and Science

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According to the protestant view (of Calvin), *science belongs to the means that God gave us to care for a life in dignity.* (Four examples: security systems, medicine, food/nutrician science, architecture/housing). *And science is a means to glorify and praise God: «So if the Lord wants to give us support through the help and service of the impious in natural science, the science of thinking or mathematics or other sciences, we should make use of it. Otherwise we would be scorning God's gifts, which are offered to us in them, and rightly be punished for our sluggishness.»* (Inst II/2,16).

Calvin: We are greedy because we do not have trust in God's providence (sermon on Deuteronomy 24,19-22)



## 2 Ethics and Science: Responsibility

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- If science is a means of God to improve and protect life, the question is what is an ethical, responsible use of science.

### **Responsibility**

- *Spondere: God is sponsor of his creation and of our charismata. That is his action.*
- *Re-spondere: The believer responds to God's offer with responsible, ethical re-action.*



## 2 Ethics and Science: Responsibility

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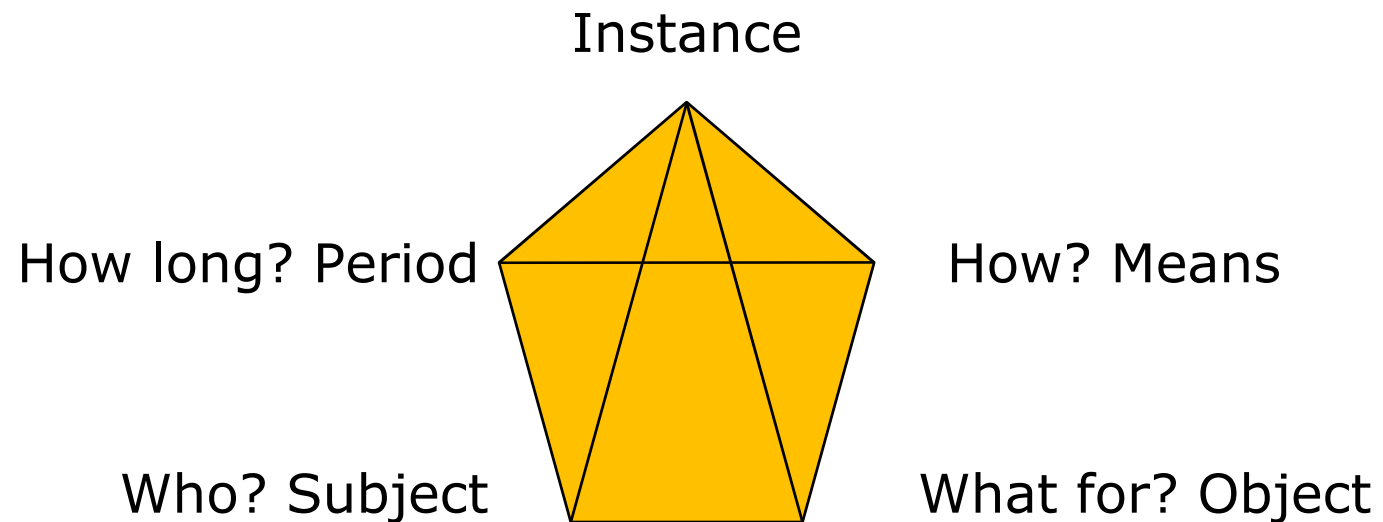
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## 2 Ethics and Science: Responsibility

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**Five key questions for a responsible use of science and technology:** a) who is responsible b) what for c) to whom d) for how long e) with which means? To whom?







## 3 Examples

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- Nuclear Energy
- Agricultural research: food production, climate adaptation
- Information Technology
- Medical ethics



## 4.1 Orientation: Christian Values

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### Core Christian Values

- Responsibility: respond to God's call means to respond to the needs of the people
- Equity: striving for equal rights with unity in diversity
- Freedom: use the space of action for building community
- Servant leadership: being a steward for the common good
- Empowerment: using science and scientific progress to empower people to manage their lives instead of making them more dependent (participation replacing domination)



## 4.2 Orientation: Christian Virtues

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### **Core Christian Virtues**

- graceful: thankful for God's gifts
- modest: good stewards, „oconomists“ of God, doing the right thing not expecting public award
- transparent: honest, open, no double moral
- efficient: careful use of God's resources
- caring: caring for the other as oneself
- reliable: relations built on trust and control
- Courage: being ahead, taking entrepreneurial risks for the better of the world
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## 4.3 Orientation: Islamic Values/Virtues

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### **Core Islamic Values**

- Justice/equity
- Sharing/caring for the community
- Sustainability for the creation

### **and Virtues**

- graceful: thankful for God's gifts
- modest: servants and friends of God
- efficient: careful use of God's resources
- caring: caring for the other as oneself
- reliable: relations built on trust and control



## 4.4 Orientation: Buddhist Values

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### **Sufficiency Economy (Thailand)**

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## 4.5 Orientation: Happyness Economy

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**Happyness Economy** as a new school in economic research (Bruno Frey, Switzerland) and world happyness indicator (replacing GNP).

„What makes people happy?“ is a broader economic concept than „How to increase material wealth“. For happyness, relations/family is for most people more decisive than salary/material wealth.



## 5. Raise the Ethical Voice

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- Make science and scientific research ethical, which means value oriented
- Personal, professional ethics as future leaders in science, private sector, business, churches.

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# **Part II: Ethics as a Scientific Method**





# 1 Ethics as a Scientific Method

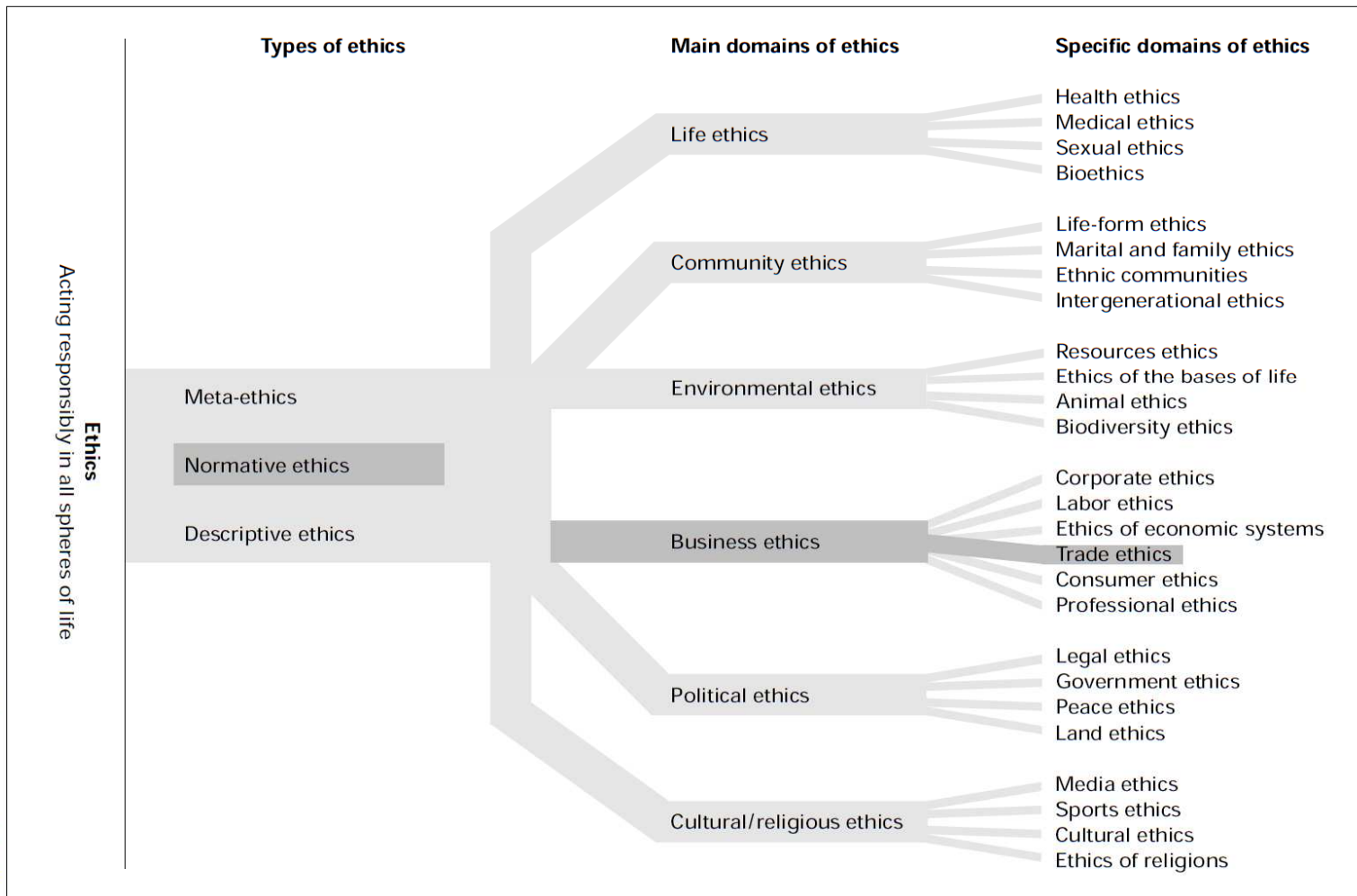
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**Moral:** the set of traditional/educated values in personal life and in a society

**Ethics:** the science of the critical reflexion of existing moral(ity) in a systematic, methodological way from one or various world views/ premises/ perspectives (Christian, Islamic, philosophical etc.)

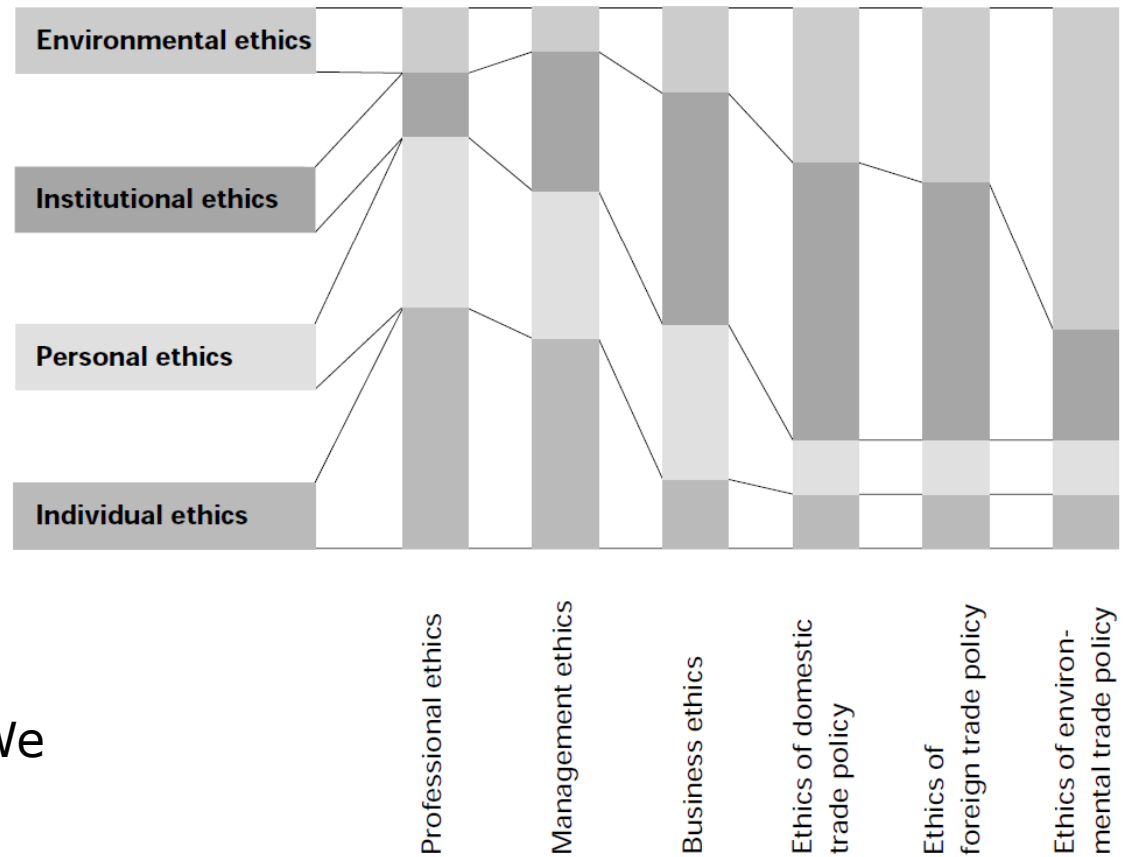
**Ethics:** Answer to „How should I decide and act, based on which values?“

# 2 Domains of Ethics



# 3 Four levels of ethics

Levels of action for business ethics



**Individual ethics:**

I – me (immediate)

**Interpersonal Ethics:**

I – you, We – you (immediate)

**Institutional Ethics:**

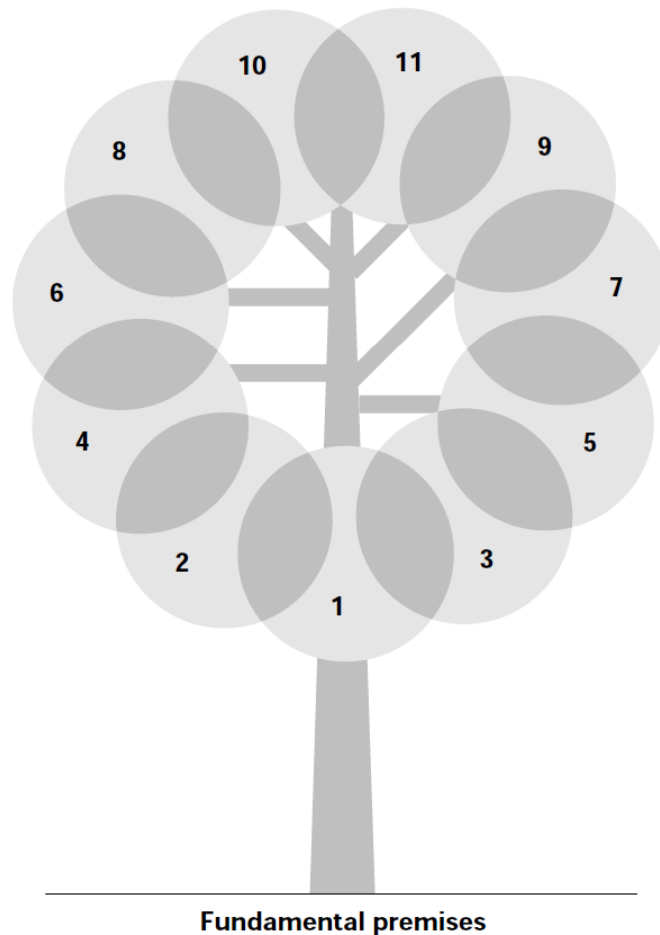
I/We – structure – I/We (mediate)

**Environmental Ethics:**

I/We – environment – I/We (mediate)

# 4 Ten Fundamental Values

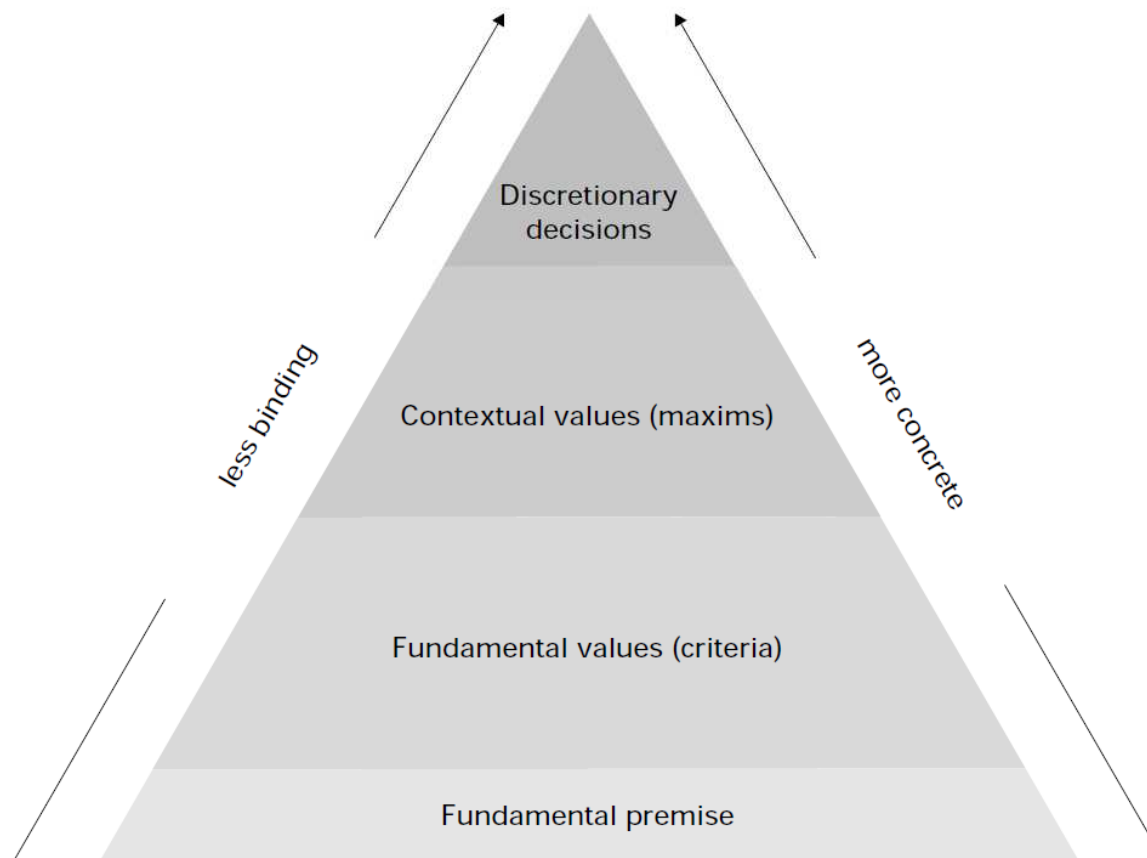
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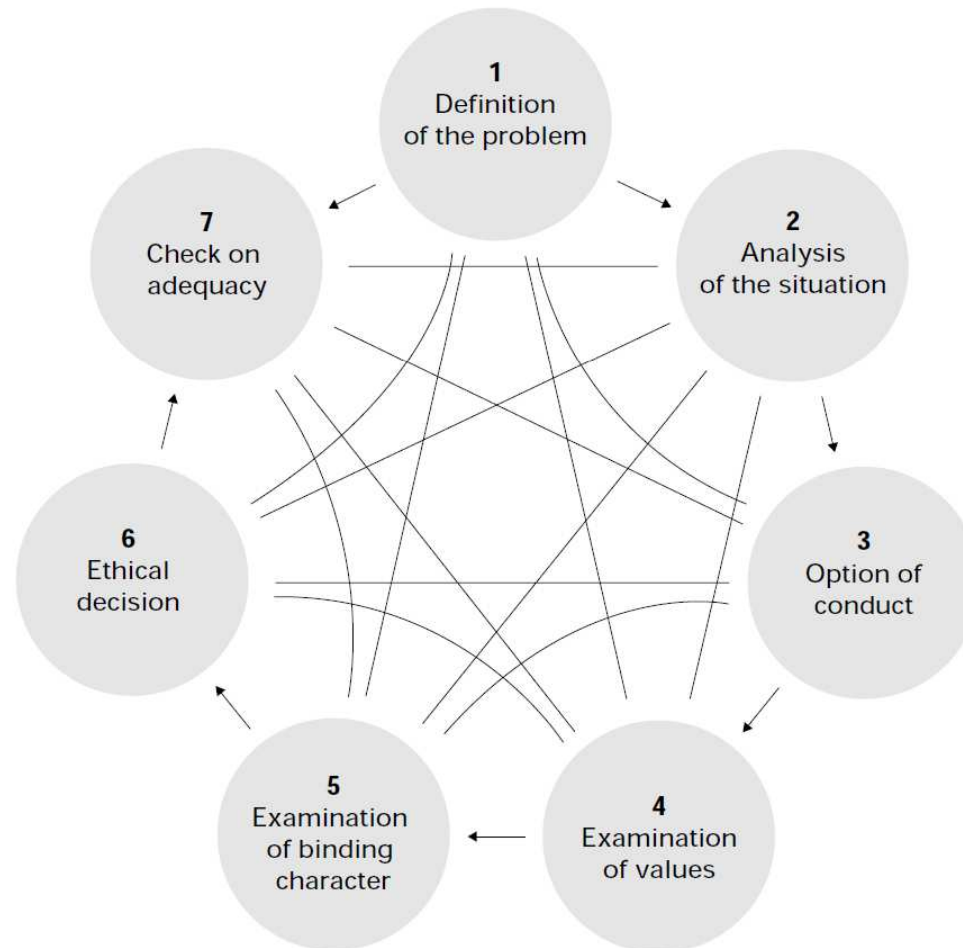
- 1 Justice
- 2 Freedom
- 3 Sustainability
- 4 Empowerment
- 5 Community
- 6 Solidarity
- 7 Participation
- 8 Responsibility
- 9 Trust
- 10 Reconciliation

# 5 Degrees of Binding Character

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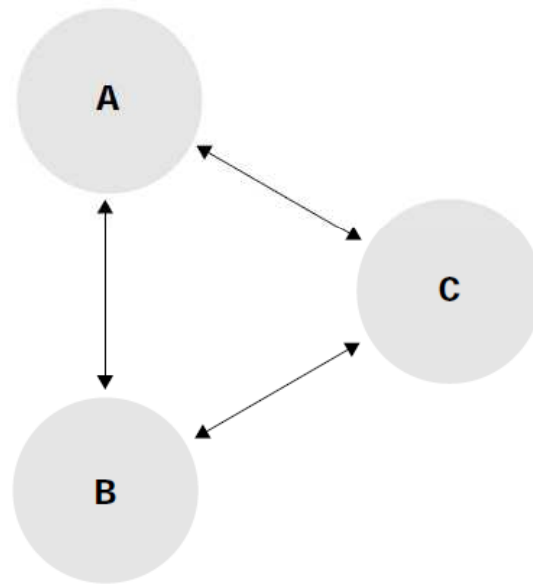


# 6 Steps of Ethical Decision Making



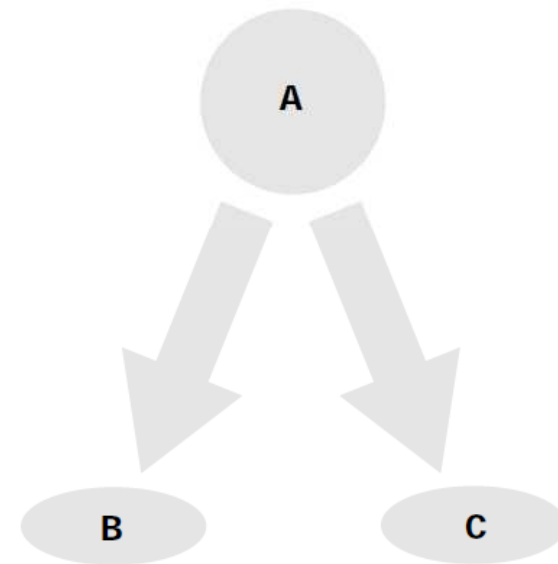
# 7 Solving Value Conflicts I

Value conflicts



A, B, C = fundamental values

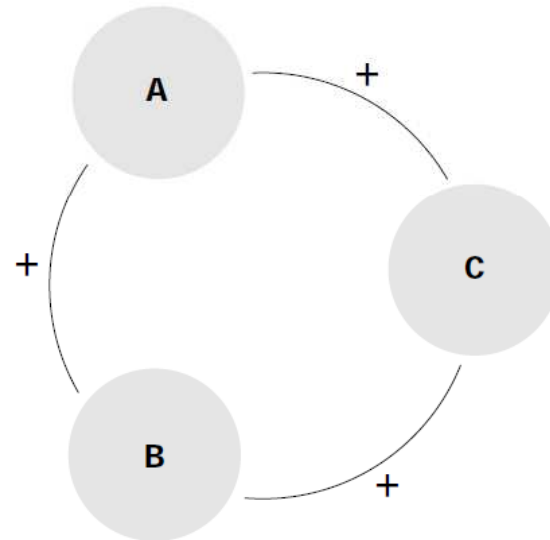
Solution1: **One absolute value**



One value prevails over all the others.  
No sustainable solution.

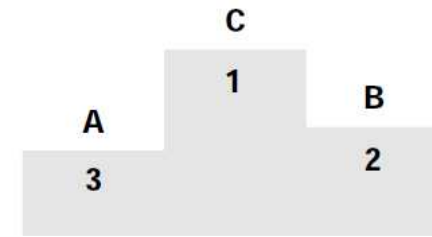
# 7 Solving Value Conflicts II

Solution 2: **Value relations**

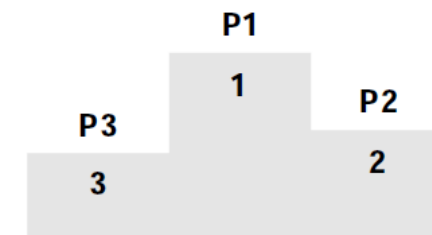


The values are placed in relation to each other (relationality)

Solution 3: **Preferential rules**



If situation X,  
then priority of C over B and A

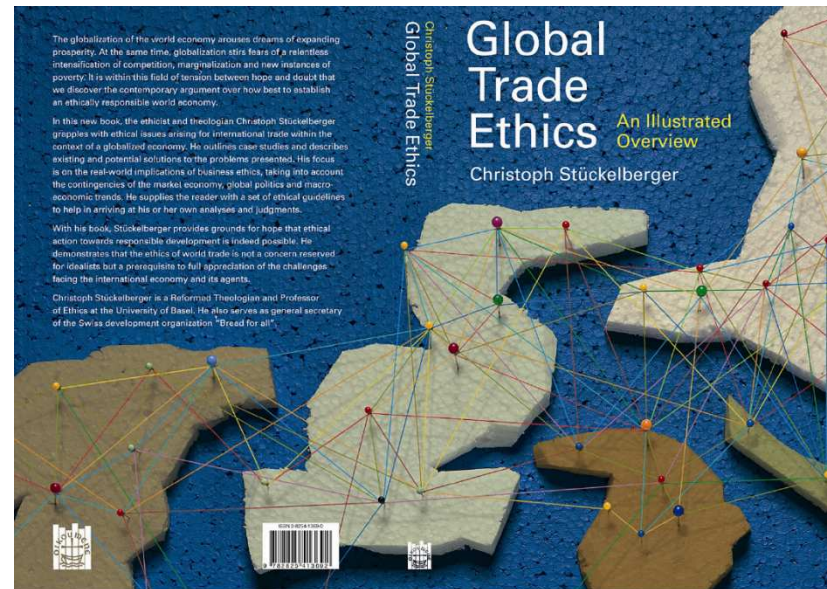


If situation Y,  
then priority of P1 over P2 and P3



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