

# **Our Great Divide**

**Recognizing Moral Difference and the  
Importance of Compassionate Leadership**



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“ What were we spending  
so much time doing if not  
getting to know each  
other? ”

-JONATHAN SAFRAN FOER

# PURPOSE

- Develop a framework for understanding moral differences.
- Recognize the importance of social compassion when working for change.
- Create a personal action plan for leading across moral differences.

## QUESTION:

Julie and Mark are brother and sister. They are travelling together in France on summer vacation from college. One night they are staying alone in a cabin near the beach. They decide that it would be interesting and fun if they tried making love. At the very least, it would be a new experience for each of them. Julie was already taking birth control pills, but Mark uses a condom too, just to be safe. They both enjoy making love, but they decide never to do it again. They keep that night as a special secret, which makes them feel even closer to each other.

# MORAL FOUNDATIONS

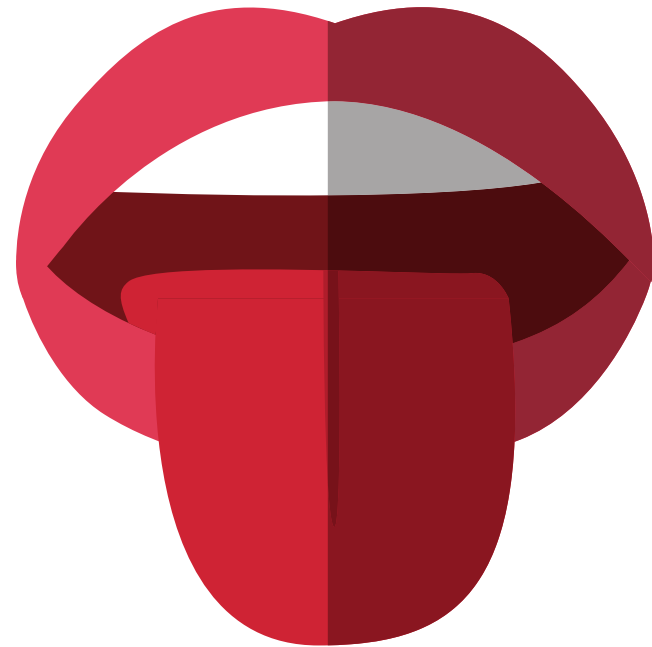
CARE

FAIRNESS

LOYALTY

AUTHORITY

PRIVITY

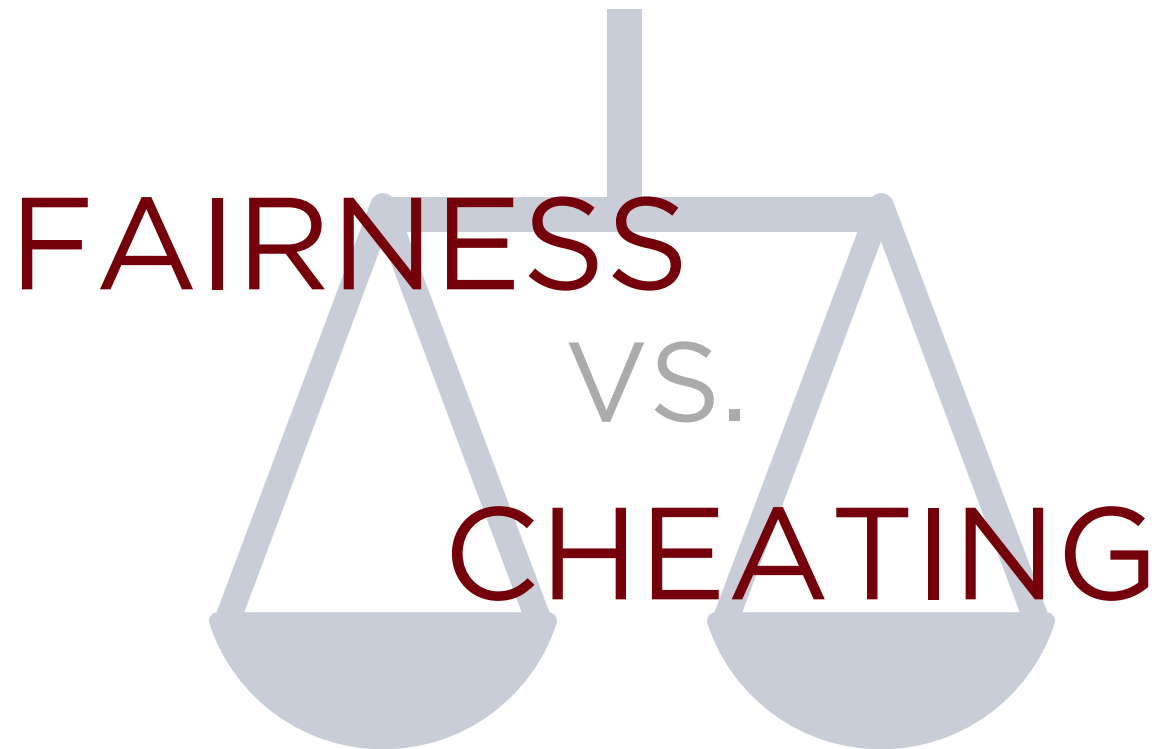


# MORAL FOUNDATIONS



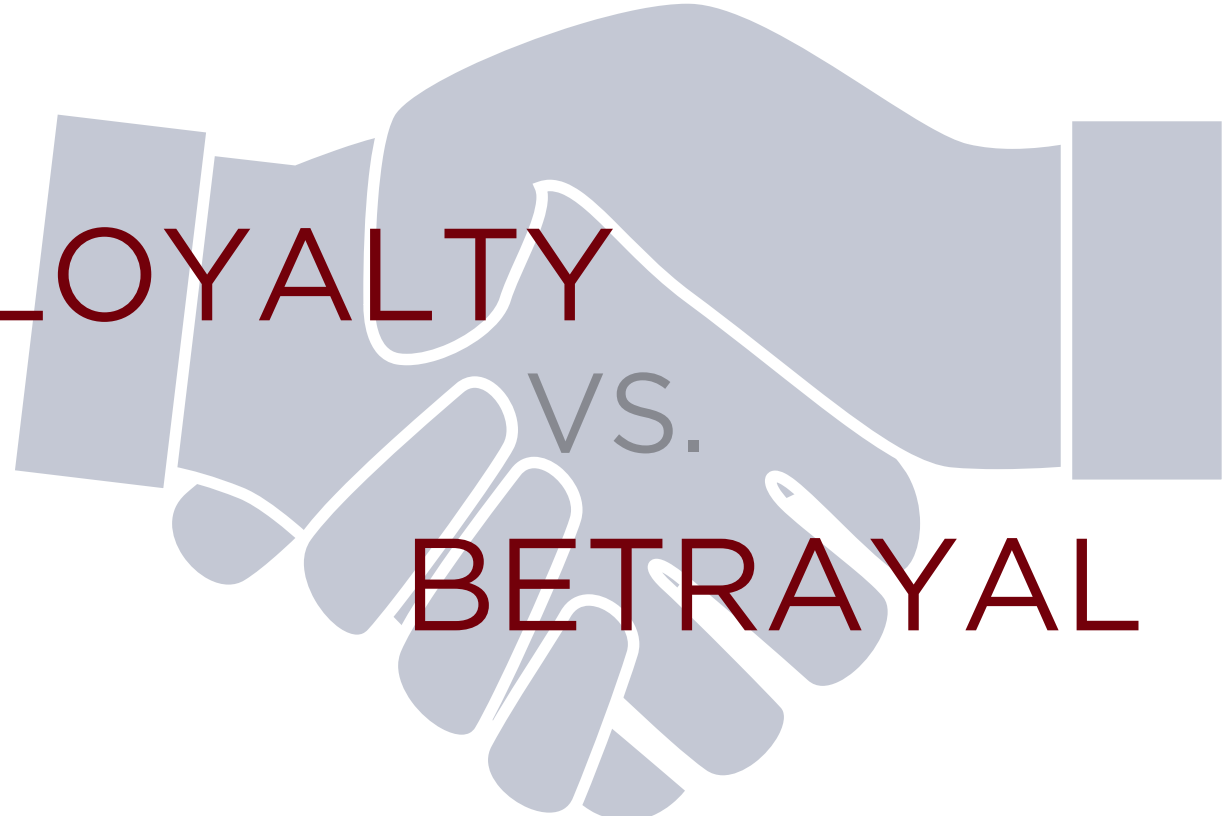
PROTECTING THE MOST VULNERABLE

# MORAL FOUNDATIONS



BENEFITING FROM PARTNERSHIPS

# MORAL FOUNDATIONS

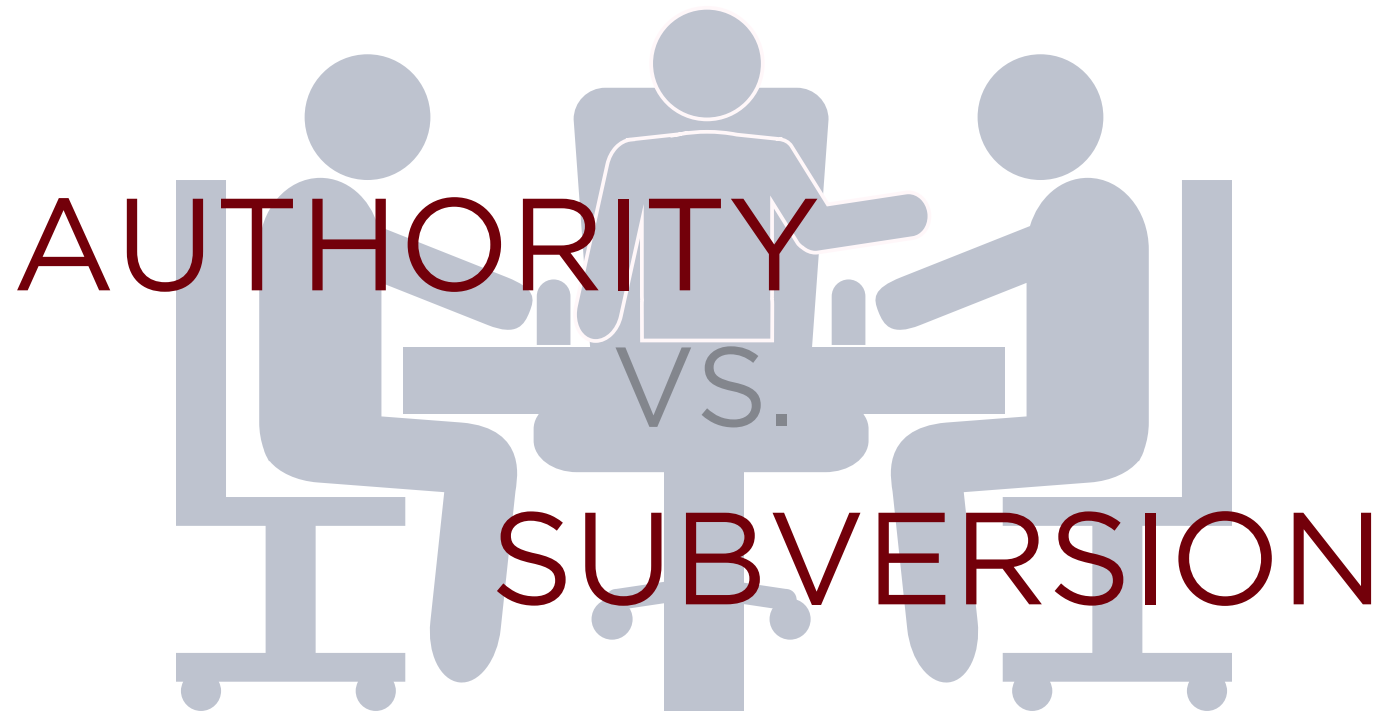


LOYALTY  
VS.  
BETRAYAL

FORMING COHESIVE GROUPS

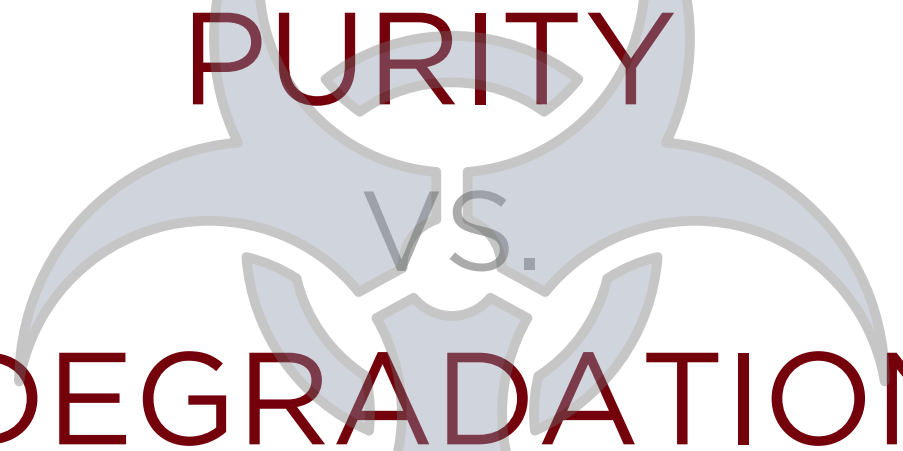


# MORAL FOUNDATIONS



FORGE BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN HIERARCHIES

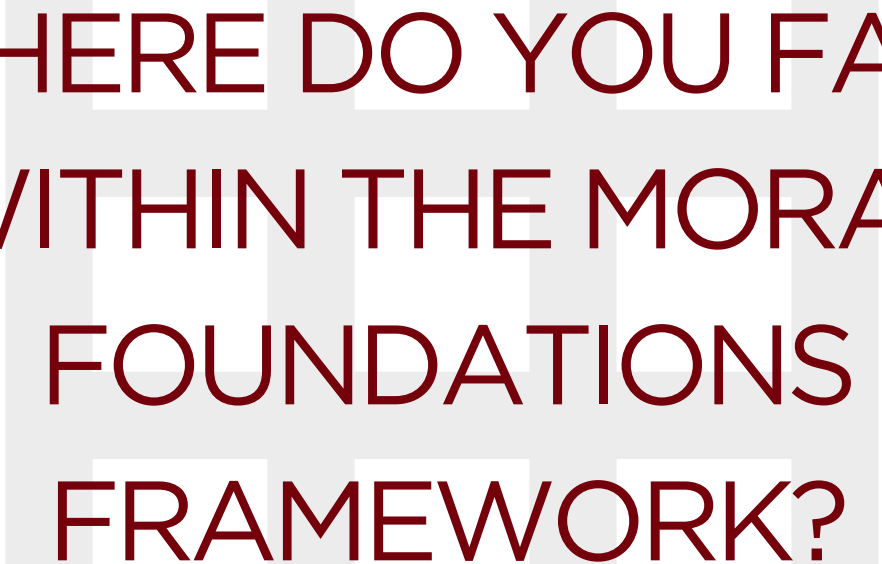
# MORAL FOUNDATIONS



PURITY  
VS.  
DEGRADATION

AVOIDING CONTAMINANTS

WHAT ABOUT  
YOU?



WHERE DO YOU FALL  
WITHIN THE MORAL  
FOUNDATIONS  
FRAMEWORK?

# RESULTS

AVERAGE POLITICALLY MODERATE  
AMERICAN'S SCORES ARE:  
20.2, 20.5, 16.0, 16.5, AND 12.6.

CARE  
FAIRNESS

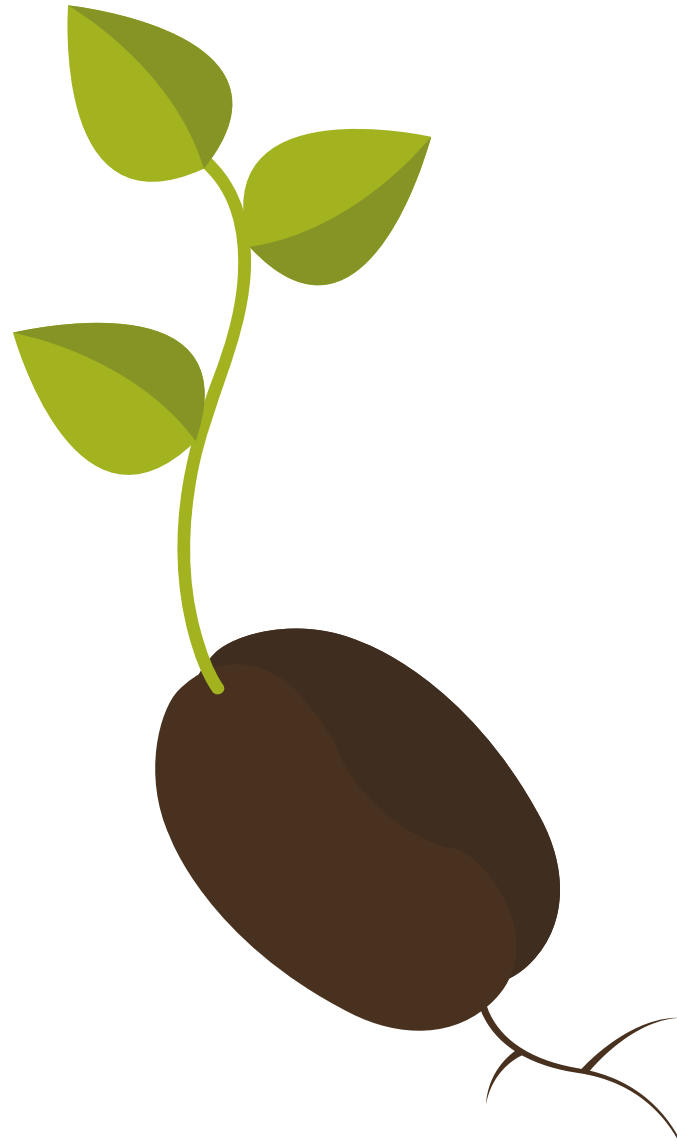


LOYALTY  
AUTHORITY  
PURITY

# TAMING THE MADVOCATE



# NEXT STEPS



# QUESTIONS

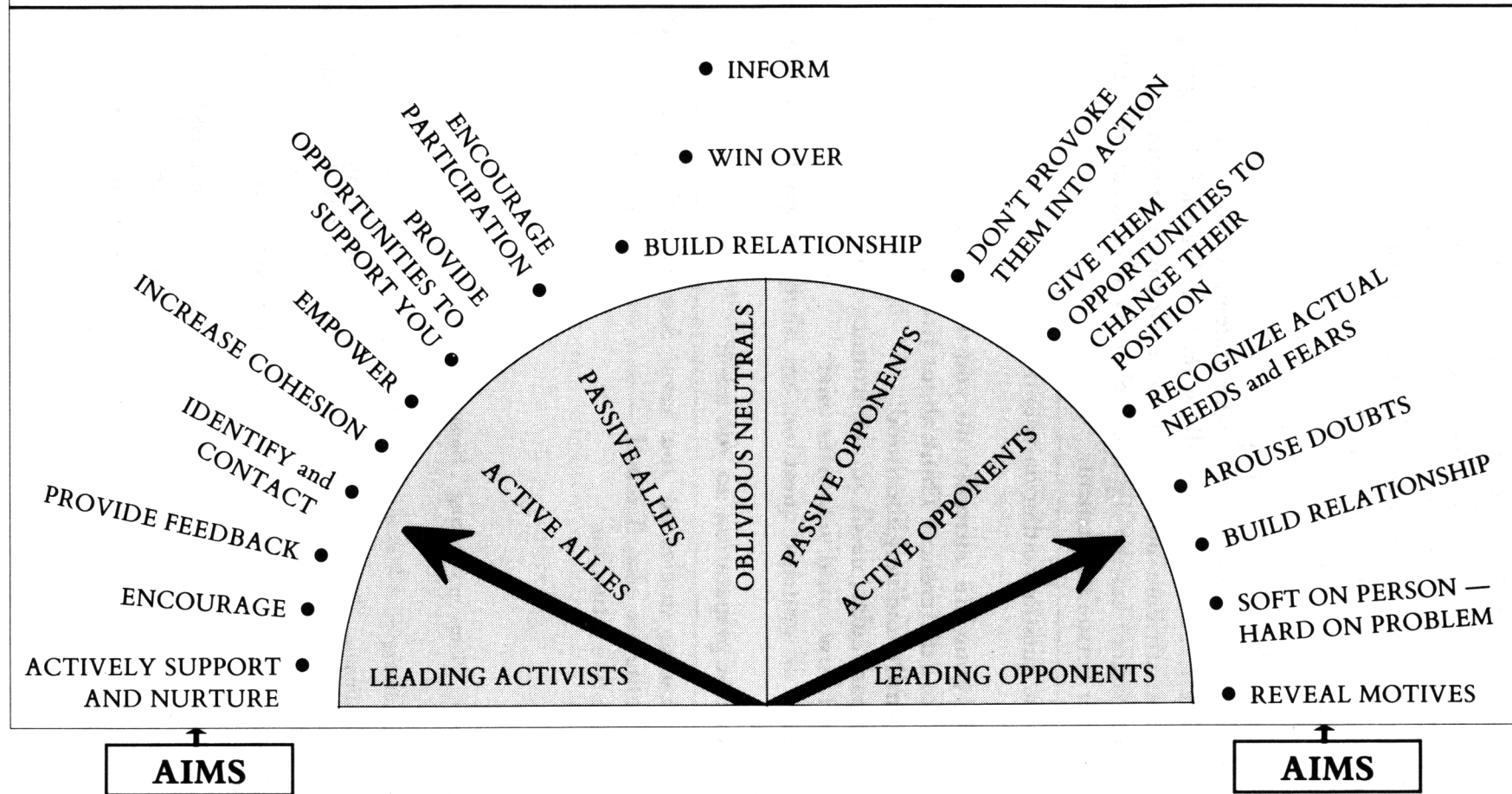


## SOCIAL BAROMETER

\* WHERE DO OTHERS STAND ON YOUR ISSUE? Identify Individuals and Groups

\* WHAT ARE YOUR AIMS WITH EACH?

ARE YOUR TACTICS CONSISTENT WITH THESE AIMS?





## Moral Foundations Questionnaire

*Part 1. When you decide whether something is right or wrong, to what extent are the following considerations relevant to your thinking? Please rate each statement using this scale:*

[0] = not at all relevant (This consideration has nothing to do with my judgments of right and wrong)

[1] = not very relevant

[2] = slightly relevant

[3] = somewhat relevant

[4] = very relevant

[5] = extremely relevant (This is one of the most important factors when I judge right and wrong)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Whether or not someone suffered emotionally
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Whether or not some people were treated differently than others
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Whether or not someone's action showed love for his or her country
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Whether or not someone showed a lack of respect for authority
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Whether or not someone violated standards of purity and decency
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Whether or not someone was good at math
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Whether or not someone cared for someone weak or vulnerable
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Whether or not someone acted unfairly
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Whether or not someone did something to betray his or her group
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Whether or not someone conformed to the traditions of society
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Whether or not someone did something disgusting
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Whether or not someone was cruel
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Whether or not someone was denied his or her rights
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Whether or not someone showed a lack of loyalty
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Whether or not an action caused chaos or disorder
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Whether or not someone acted in a way that God would approve of

*Part 2. Please read the following sentences and indicate your agreement or disagreement:*

[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]
Strongly disagree	Moderately disagree	Slightly disagree	Slightly agree	Moderately agree	Strongly agree

- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. Compassion for those who are suffering is the most crucial virtue.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. When the government makes laws, the number one principle should be ensuring that everyone is treated fairly.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. I am proud of my country's history.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. Respect for authority is something all children need to learn.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. People should not do things that are disgusting, even if no one is harmed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 22. It is better to do good than to do bad.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 23. One of the worst things a person could do is hurt a defenseless animal.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 24. Justice is the most important requirement for a society.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 25. People should be loyal to their family members, even when they have done something wrong.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 26. Men and women each have different roles to play in society.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 27. I would call some acts wrong on the grounds that they are unnatural.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 28. It can never be right to kill a human being.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 29. I think it's morally wrong that rich children inherit a lot of money while poor children inherit nothing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 30. It is more important to be a team player than to express oneself.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 31. If I were a soldier and disagreed with my commanding officer's orders, I would obey anyway because that is my duty.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 32. Chastity is an important and valuable virtue.
- 

To score the MFQ yourself, you can copy your answers into the grid below. Then add up the 6 numbers in each of the five columns and write each total in the box at the bottom of the column. The box then shows your score on each of 5 psychological "foundations" of morality. Scores run from 0-30 for each foundation. (Questions 6 and 22 are just used to catch people who are not paying attention. They don't count toward your scores).

Question #	Your Response	Question #	Your Response	Question #	Your Response	Question #	Your Response	Question #	Your Response
1		2		3		4		5	
7		8		9		10		11	
12		13		14		15		16	
17		18		19		20		21	22
23		24		25		26		27	
28		29		30		31		32	

Harm / Care	Fairness / Reciprocity	In-group/ Loyalty	Authority / Respect	Purity / Sanctity

The average politically moderate American's scores are: \_\_\_\_\_

Liberals generally score a bit higher on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and much lower than that on the other three foundations.

Conservatives generally show the opposite pattern.

The Moral Foundations Questionnaire (MFQ-30, July 2008) by Jesse Graham, Jonathan Haidt, and Brian Nosek.  
 For more information about Moral Foundations Theory, scoring this form, or interpreting your scores, see:  
[www.MoralFoundations.org](http://www.MoralFoundations.org). To take this scale online and see how you compare to others, go to [www.YourMorals.org](http://www.YourMorals.org)