# A Structural Approach to Moral Foundations Theory

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| Moral Value | Description of main Markers | Illustration / guiding Question |
|---|---|---|
| **Care / Harm** | • Attachment<br>• Prevent suffering, harm to mental/ physical health, life<br>• Protect the weak<br><br>Emotion: Compassion | *Protect & nurture the needy*<br><br>***Is somebody´s mental/physical health or life threatened?*** |
| **Fairness / Cheating** | • Individualist, Same hierarchical level<br>• Following the rules<br>• mutually beneficial cooperation, reciprocal altruism<br><br>Emotion: (Liking) | *Play tit for tat*<br><br>***Have the rules been followed?*** |
| **Loyalty / Betrayal** | • inclusion / exclusion<br>• approve of team players contributing to group´s well-being<br>• against acts on behalf of self-interest, exclude traitors<br>• trust<br>• Diversity is not desired, recognize group members<br>• Equity (Social Justice)<br><br>Emotion: Pride | *Sacrifice heroically for our community*<br><br>***Does this concern someone sacrificing for their group without expecting anything in return?*** |
| **Authority / Subversion** | • structures group vertically in hierarchies<br>• Voluntary subordination, giving up sovereignty<br>• Authority perceived as legitimate<br>• Authority fulfils duty of their (social) position, roles<br>• Traditions, social order / boundaries<br><br>Emotion: Respect | *Fulfil the role of your hierarchical position*<br><br>***Is there an authority which is perceived as legitimate?*** |
| **Liberty / Oppression** | • Individualist, Social detachment<br>• Decide for oneself<br>• Autonomy is moralized end in itself<br>• Negative liberty<br>• Equality, against illegitimate constraints, control<br><br>Emotion: Anger | *Laissez faire*<br><br>***Could the person decide for themselves?*** |
| **Sanctity / Degradation** | • signals a group's cultural boundaries<br>• avoid proximity to potential threats of diseases<br>• avoid proximity to people deviant from the perceived norm<br>• protect (keep pure) the sacred and divine<br><br>Emotion: Disgust | *Behave nobly, controlled, pure (in accordance with the spiritual), My body is a temple*<br><br>***Is an action perceived to be "just" wrong?*** |