Virtue Ethics
Rather than what makes a good person, rather than emphasizing the notion of right/wrong, someone a good person, rather than person and the qualities that makes Emphasizes the notion of a good.

Virtue Ethics
Aristotle particularly the Ethics of Plato and prominent in ancient Greece, the kind of ethics that was most consequences of the action itself rather than on the nature or focuses on the character of the agent.

Virtue Ethics
Virtues – refer to general sense of moral excellence or goodness. The good, admirable character traits. The moral practice of the virtues of care, honesty, and objectivity by a virtuous agent/engineer might indicate a flourishing of morality.
Two Kinds of Virtues

1. Moral Virtues - e.g., honesty
2. Intellectual Virtues - e.g., knowledge

The good life involves developing a good character. Moral virtues are cultivated by habits.

Qualities of mind developed through theoretical instruction. They are practical and wisdom.

They are practical and
Theories Concerning Virtue
Plato's Virtue Ethics
Internal goods. Similarly, are guided by pronoēsis. Depending upon whether they are either beneficial or harmful, material goods (goods of the body and Virtue is a good and is beneficial. a kind of wisdom (pronoēsis). In the Meno, Plato argues that virtue is

Plato's virtue ethics
guided by phronesis.
when the related conduct is not
rigidity be called by these names
courage and temperance cannot
associated with such virtues as
For example, traits traditionally

Plato's virtue ethics
organizational. (happy) for themselves and for the create a life that is both eudaimon virtues of the people in such a firm virtues which have intrinsic worth. The Watson (IBM), who emphasized basic managerial statement is Thomas example of a Platonic

Plato's virtue ethics
and are governed by wisdom. Knowledge of what is intrinsically good model of the Platonic statesman have leaders of companies guided by the Plato's virtue ethics
material body and an immaterial soul.

A human being is a combination of a
element of the human soul.
only be understood in relation to the
temperance and justice. These virtues can
cardinal virtues: wisdom, courage,

In the Republic, Plato discusses four

Plato's virtue ethics
Reason whole person. This requires the use of deliberate, make choices, and direct the function of the human soul is to Plato's virtue ethics

---
drink, etc.).

and the appetites (desires for food, Honor and victory are its highest goal),

the competitive aspect of the soul (spirit) manifested in anger and is

or knowledge and a desire to govern the

reason, which has a drive for the truth

The human soul has 3 elements:

_____________________________

Plato's virtue ethics
Which is the third most important virtue:
Desire-soul whose virtue is moderation.

Which is the second most important virtue:
The will-soul whose virtue is courage.

The will-soul whose virtue is courage should rule over the other parts of the souls.

Intellectual soul whose virtue is wisdom.

The Three Souls.
Temperance.

To reason has the virtue of properly controlled and subordinated appetites.

A soul in which the appetites are soul is courageous.

The virtue of the spirited part of the soul is courageous.

The virtue of reason is wisdom.

(Phronesis)

Plato's virtue ethics (cont)
State

The Elements of Human Soul

The Classes of a State

Plato: The VIRTUOUS Human and
Wisdom if virtue is to exist.
and appetite, must be guided by
The raw material of virtue, e.g. spirit
Integrity.
ensures psychic harmony and
Justice is the virtue of the soul that
Plato's virtue ethics (cont)
Relationship between Virtue and Conduct

- We acquire and maintain virtue through conduct.
- Right conduct is any activity that promotes and sustains virtue—in oneself, in others, and in society as a whole.
- Since, for Plato, virtue is good in itself and also brings happiness to the virtuous person, his theory of moral obligation is teleological (one that seeks to define the proper telos (goal or end) of human beings.
Virtue and Conduct
Aristotle's Virtue Ethics
Aristotle's virtue ethics

The first systematic description of virtue ethics was written by Aristotle in his work "Ethics." The soul is the form and principle of each separate entity. Not a organization of the body.
Reason has 2 functions:

- Rational (thinking, reasoning)
- Apperceptive (seeing, hearing, feeling, etc.)

There are 3 basic functions of the soul

Aristotle's Virtue Ethics
Moral virtues are virtues of the non-rational part of the soul.

Rational part of the soul well.

Practical wisdom consists of directing the non-rational.

Collectively, they are the intellectual virtues.

Function of reason is practical wisdom.

The virtue of the theoretical function of reason is

Aristotle's virtue ethics
Friendliness, and others,

temperance, justice, truthfulness, liberality,

The moral virtues include prudence, courage,

become habitual behavior.

performing virtuous acts over and over until they

Moral virtues are acquired by practice, i.e., by

virtues, which represent capacities of reason.

Moral virtues represent habits, traits, or

Moral Virtue
taking the action.
capacities and the circumstances of the person

The mean is often relative, depending on the
cowardice (deficiency).

between the extreme of recklessness (excess) and
For example, a courageous action is the mean
the other a deficiency.

mean between two extremes—one an excess and
A virtuous action is an action that occupies the

Virtuous Action
Aristotle's views

situation. (This is just one interpretation of

'... precisely where the mean is in every
tell us precisely where the mean is in every

... the mean, there are no rules that can

Although there are some general rules that apply

interpretation of Aristotle's views.

... simply 'sees' where the mean is. (This is just one

... means 'where the mean is.' The virtuous person then

about the situation. The virtuous person then

situation, one must first consider all relevant facts

To determine where the mean is in a particular

Virtuous Action (cont)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Self-Indulgence</th>
<th>Moderation</th>
<th>Insensibility</th>
<th>Pleasure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Irascibility</td>
<td>Mildness</td>
<td>Inrascibility</td>
<td>Anger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cowardice</td>
<td>Courage</td>
<td>Rashness</td>
<td>Fear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prodigality</td>
<td>Generosity</td>
<td>Stinginess</td>
<td>Giving Money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice: Excess</td>
<td>Virtue: „Middle“</td>
<td>Deficiency</td>
<td>Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice: Mean</td>
<td>Virtue: „Middle“</td>
<td>Deficiency</td>
<td>Action</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Golden Mean
Happiness is an activity of the soul in accordance with virtue.

The good for human beings is happiness.

All things aim at their own good.

Aristotle's views on goodness


Morarity, Gene. Engineering Project Sources.