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ITETHIC

Book: Contemporary Moral Problems

Title: Chapter 1: Ethical Theories (Annette Baier: The Need for More Than Justice)

Internet Reference:

<http://www.amazon.com/Contemporary-Moral-Problems-James-White/dp/0534517242>

Learning Expectations:

What more of justice do we need?

How does this relate to Ethics?

How does this relate to Morality?

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Quote:

*"It is clear, I think, that the best moral theory has to be a cooperative product of women and men, has to harmonize justice and care. The morality it theorizes about is after all for all persons, for men and for women, and will need their combined insights."*

Book Review:

Baier stated the problems the society used to have. Racism and sexism were imminent back in the days. Black people are treated as slaves, women are to stay in homes and nurture the children. They were treated as the lower class in the community. Men and non-foreigners reigned as the "superior class". Some leaders fail to treat his people equally. Bias sometimes hinders their moral judgment. But look at the leaders we have today, Barack Obama, an African-American is now the president of the United States of America, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, a womam, is the president of the Republic of the Philippines.

What I have learned:

I have learned that all people must work together for the betterment of the society.

Integrity Questions:

1. Are men and women now equal?
2. Is care important as well as justice?

### Review Questions:

1. Distinguish between the justice and care perspectives. According to Gilligan, how do these perspectives develop?

- Justice perspective refers to the approach in decision-making that takes into consideration legalities while the care perspective accounts for concern, mercy, etc.

2. Explain Kohlberg's theory of moral development. What criticisms do Gilligan and Baier make of this theory?

- Moral development as defined by Kohlberg, *"Moral development which saw it to progress from a pre-conventional level, where what is seen to matter is pleasing or not offending parental authority-figures, through a conventional level in which the child tries to fit in with a group, such as a school community, and conform to its standards and rules, to a post-conventional critical level, in which such conventional rules are subjected to tests and where those tests are of a Utilitarian, or, eventually, a Kantian sort."* Gilligan and Baier wrote that it is one sided, and only referred to men.

3. Baier says there are three important differences between Kantian liberals and their critics. What are these differences?

- *The first was its dubious record. The second was its inattention to relations of inequality or its presence of equality. The third reason is its exaggeration of the scope of the choice, or its inattention to unchosen relations."*

4. Why does Baier attack the Kantian view that the reason should control unruly passions?

- Baier said that we don't have to worry what passions persons have, as long as their rational wills control them.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What does Baier mean when she speaks of the need "to transvalue the values of our patriarchal past"? Do new values replace the old ones? If so, then do we abandon the old values of justice, freedom, and rights?

- She means that we have to take account of the teachings of people from the past. New values are "enhancements" and "improvements" of the old ones.

2. What is wrong with the Kantian view that extends equal rights to all rational beings, including women and minorities? What would Baier say? What do you think?

- Because according to Kant, women are not considered as rational beings.

3. Baier seems to reject the Kantian emphasis on freedom of choice? Granted, we do not choose our parents, but still don't we have freedom of choice about many things, and isn't this very important?

- It is how we adapt to changes and thinking independently. Attitude of parents play a major role here, but personal development will decide on things.