Types of Morality

In our society there are many different sets of moral principles competing with each other. We no longer have one set of moral principles that the majority in society accept. As a result, everyone is more or less left on their own to "pick and choose" what is right and what is wrong.

		Example	Example
Conflicting Morality	*In society today we can find a wide range of moral opinions. Many people have conflicting moral values.*	A person can be a strong supporter of the environment by going into forest areas and protesting about the cutting down of trees, yet at home they do not recycle or compost.	
The Right to Choose	*In society today we have the right to freedom and the right to choose how we live our lives.* *Some people place morality on this same platform.* *Just because you have the right to choose what is morally right, doesn't necessarily make it right.*	I could choose freely to believe that killing is OK but this doesn't make it morally right.	

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Everybody does it	*If a large number of people do or believe in something, it doesn't automatically make it morally right.*	Just because a large number of students in your school are taking drugs, it doesn't automatically mean that it is morally good. The facts are that it is harmful to you and others. The facts don't change.	
What's wrong with it if nobody gets hurt?	*Too often people believe if nobody gets hurt then it is OK, which therefore leads to being morally right. This tends to be a fallacy - in most cases somebody gets hurt, whether it is you, friends, parents, etc.*	You could use the above argument when cheating in a test – you are not hurting anyone.	

In all of the above we know that certain kinds of behaviour are good and other types of behaviour are bad. It is up to us to sort out what is right and what is wrong.

- Which of the above approaches do you think most people your age uses today? Explain

- How do the above approaches differ from Christian morality? Give Reasons.

  Note: *Christians see the world with the eyes of faith. How they behave and how they choose is based on Jesus' teachings - in particular the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes.*