**Some thoughtful ways of ethically evaluating**

**whether to do/say something in a particular situation**

**Virtue ethics:** We are living things that, like all living things, seek to flourish. So, the primary question is: what sort of person will this move me toward becoming? More excellent, or less excellent? More flourishing, or less? (That includes: into what sort of people will it shape the others involved?)

**Deontology:** A major part of what it means to be human is to have certain duties to ourselves and to others. Since we cannot control the consequences of our actions, what is important is the choice itself. So, the primary question: is this choice in line with my duty as a human being? Is this what anyone should do, what it is permissible for anyone to do, in this situation? Or am I being influenced by my personal desires and biases?

**Consequentialism:** The whole point of choosing and acting is what it actually produces. Good intentions don’t make anyone’s life better by themselves. My own happiness (= enjoyment of life) will be more if other people are also happier. So, the primary question is: will this result in the most happiness for the most (or the most relevant) people?

**Divine command:** Things are only good because God, who is all-powerful and the one who determines right and wrong, says they are. So, the (only) question: is this what God (directly) told me to do or (indirectly) would want me to do?

**Relativism:**

 **A. Tribalism:** We belong to particular communities, not to “humanity” as a whole. Standards of right and wrong are nothing other than what the community currently permits and prohibits. So, the primary question: is this something my community would think is right?

 **B. Individualism:** Standards and values can only be binding if I opt into them, and there is nothing that has to guide my opting in or out. So, the primary question: is this what my current personal standards would advise? (Secondary question: am I going to revise those standards right now?)