

Universal Principles

No matter who you are or where you live, the universal principles outlined below have been acknowledged as fundamental components of ethical living that provide long-term benefit for both the individual and society.¹⁵ They align with the majority of religious and philosophical approaches of today, from ancient Chinese philosopher Confucius¹⁶ to most recent Christian adaptations.¹⁷ They are our Legos—our building blocks of life.

Universal Principles by Category

Transcendence	Restraint	Justice	Humanity	Courage	Wisdom
Appreciate beauty and excellence	Forgiveness and Mercy To give a second chance; to not seek revenge	Citizenship To be loyal	Love To cherish one another	Bravery To take action even when dangerous or unpopular	Creativity To think of ways of doing things well
Spirituality To have clear belief: a higher purpose in life	Humility and Modesty To not have excess pride or exposure	Fairness To treat all people the same	Kindness To do good deeds for others	Persistence To finish despite obstacles	Curiosity To inquire and explore
Gratitude To be thankful	Prudence To be careful	Leadership To guide a group forward	Social Intelligence To be aware of other's feelings	Integrity To be trustworthy and responsible	Open-Mindedness To consider all options equally
Hope To expect a positive outcome	Self-regulation To have control of one's actions: Self discipline (willpower)			Vitality To have energy and enthusiasm	Love of Learning To continually grow
Humor To enjoy the lighter side of life					Perspective To be wise: to make sense

¹⁵ C. Peterson and M. Seligman, *Character Strengths and Virtues: A Handbook and Classification* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1984).

¹⁶ Confucian principles include *Yi* (morality or right action), *Li* (fairness), *Wren* (humaneness; love), *Wen* (creativity with a purpose), *Xi* (learning to instill in oneself virtuous habits), *Zhi* (knowledge and wisdom), and *Te* (leading by example). The wording of the principles and actual principles vary by source.

¹⁷ J. Olsteen, *You Can, You will: 8 Undeniable Qualities of a Winner* (New York: Faith Words, 2014). This work is based on Christian principles found in the Holy Bible.