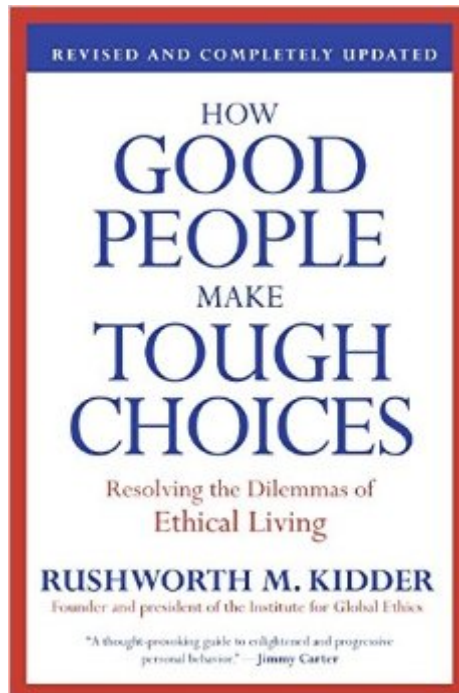


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# How Good People Make Tough Choices Rev Ed: Resolving The Dilemmas Of Ethical Living



## Synopsis

“A thought-provoking guide to enlightened and progressive personal behavior.” —Jimmy Carter  
An essential guide to ethical action updated for our challenging times, *How Good People Make Tough Choices* by Rushworth M. Kidder offers practical tools for dealing with the difficult moral dilemmas we face in our everyday lives. The founder and president of the Institute for Global Ethics, Dr. Kidder provides guidelines for making the important decisions in situations that may not be that clear cut—from most private and personal to the most public and global. Former U.S. senator and NBA legend Bill Bradley calls *How Good People Make Tough Choices* a valuable guide to more informed and self-conscious moral judgments.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a nice, short book that anybody could read and get something useful out of. To help potential readers, I will clarify a little about the book. In many ways, it is not a book about decision making per se, but rather ethics and decision making. As such the title doesn't quite fit: perhaps it should be called how good people -should- make tough choices. Given that the emphasis of the book was somewhat different than expected, Kidder made a decent book out of the general topic of ethics. Not arcane in any way, chock full of examples and designed to be user-friendly. A great book for "lay persons" who are nonetheless quite familiar with decisions that have ethical implications and need to make them on a regular basis.

This book has provided me with a structure through which I can begin to think more openly about

ethics. It has surprised me with a number of new ideas, most of which are relevant to all of us. I highly recommend this work to those who care about living a thoughtful life. Ethics this way is not stodgy and limiting, but expansive and exciting.

This book allows students of all ages to start the difficult job of ethical decision making. Starting with its "Right vs. Right" concept, it teaches various ways to think about ethical decision making. This would be a wonderful book for a middle school or high school ethics class as well as an adult discussion group. Could easily be adapted to a church setting.

Not a bad read if you're looking into ways to break down moral decisions. The book provides a clear way to identify what kind of dilemma is in front of you and by the end provides the author's insight on which decisions seem to be most beneficial. However the criteria for decision making as the author hopes the readers to take in by the end of the book is at times muddled and subjective. Your idea of utilitarianism may be to save the bus full of children but my idea of it may be to save the one doctor who might go on to cure cancer. In the end all the reader is left with is the understanding that there are decisions which they will face with no right (or rather wrong) choice and that the choice they do make will define their ethical character. Whether you choose mercy over justice or the individual over society doesn't matter as long as you have the common sense to make the decision yourself and stand by it. Whether you need to read this book or not to make "tough" decisions depends on how hard set your core values are but you'll have nothing to lose from reading it.

This book points out aptly how several of our values, such as mercy and justice as one several pairs, come in conflict. It isn't so much a good value vs. a bad value in many cases, but that our values actually conflict. He covers this subject and hopefully contributes to the perception that most people intend to do good but simply weigh one value as higher than the other. This explains why, for instance, a judge may sentence a rich youth less severely than a poor youth, viewing the crime as either a mistake deserving mercy or a crime deserving justice, depending on the judge's own personal evaluation of or affinity for the youth.

I was assigned this book for an Leadership Ethics class that is part of my current MBA program. This was actually one of 5 books we were assigned on the topics of leadership and ethics and this was by far my favorite. I find that the ethical dilemmas presented by the author are clear and help drive home his point. This book is not about choosing between RIGHT and WRONG. This book is

about how as a leader and manager you may be forced to choose between RIGHT and RIGHT what kidder is calling the ethical dilemma. Kidder provides some techniques to work through ethical dilemmas and talks about how to categorize them. The information in this book has stuck with me during the past year. I can't even remember the other books we were asked to read. May be a bit simplistic for some, but I think this is good general purpose leadership and ethics reading for the masses.

This is the book my ethics class is based on. This author knows his subject well and I enjoyed reading the real-life scenarios presented. We have all faced right vs. right situations in our lives and this was very informative and though provoking.

Kidder's book essentially boils down any tough choice down to basic conflicts, a struggle for competing "rights" or things we value. We value loyalty, for example, and we value honesty...what happens if I know my spouse is cheating on our taxes or from their company? Thought provoking, easily read....strongly recommend.

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