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Transmission Systems

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Ethics

Ethics or put it even more differently, moral principles are what makes a person, truly a person. That means, depending on how the principles are followed, will determine one way or another what category of morality, “Just or not just”, the person really falls into. This concept of morality can be seen in different areas in any person’s life, especially in their professional side of their life. As a result, it is expected from anyone, whether they are a Doctor, Engineer, Father, Mother, or even a student in a class, to be truly ethical and faithful to their obligated roles. It is usually the point when a person decides deliberately begins not to uphold their roles, we start to see issues that heavily relates to concepts of morality in the terms of that particular role. This can be profoundly seen in areas like Engineering.

Engineering and Ethics truly go hand in hand. This is because the subject of Engineering regardless of their nature, deals one way or another with human life. It is because of this primary reason why Engineers for all the reasons should be held responsible for their decisions. If an Engineer purposely makes decisions such as accepting bribery, showing dishonesty with the measurements for the sake of saving money, and so on, then that person in every way should be considered unethical to the code of Ethics stated by professional societies like IEEE, ASME, ASCE and AiChe.

There are many incidents in history that is known to have taken place as a result of someone or a group of people being unethical to meet their self-interested needs. One particular incident that still underlines the world today of the malignant impact ethics has on Engineering, is the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster of 1986. This is because of the fact during this event, as the author Charles F. Trentelman stated in the article, “ Two men fought to prevent Challenger launch”, that the engineers of Morton Thiokol Corporation mainly, Allan J. McDonald and Roger Boisjoly clearly warned the management about the consequences of launching the shuttle on January 28, 1986. However, as a result of the Management proceeding on to meeting the deadline and avoiding more delays from taking place, those supervisors of those Engineers gave it a green light to NASA to continue with the plan which as a result ended up not just impacting the prospective future of NASA itself but also the lives of those in the shuttle and in America.

It should be noticed from the disaster, that it is clearly because of the management unethical choice to disregard any warnings, why something as disastrous as the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster even took place. Rather than meeting the deadline, if they took more time to test the space boosters that were known to fail under cold temperatures, then those seven astronauts would have lived through that day to tell their successful journey. For this reason, it should be a concern for all of us to not mix bad ethics with anything, especially Engineering.