**Chapter Summary**

*Ethical Choices*, Third Edition

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Chapter 1: Morals and Values

Chapter 1 opens with the myth of Gyges to encourage readers to reflect upon values, their influence upon our choices, and how moral values are commonly understood. The moral realm makes claims about moral right and wrong and moral good and bad. Focusing on values, the next section introduces distinctions between values and prescriptions and between the normative and descriptive. To make clearer what falls within the moral realm, it is contrasted with the normative realms of etiquette, law, and the prudential.

The distinction between intrinsic and instrumental values is made in the next section. It is suggested that all moral claims (value claims and prescriptive claims) can be derived from, and thus explained by, one or a few foundational intrinsic values. This is how most ethical theories work. But there are two different sorts of foundations. A theory might appeal to a few *moral* foundational values (e.g., virtue theory) or to *non-moral* foundational values (e.g., hedonism).