**Chapter Summary**

*Ethical Choices*, Third Edition

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Chapter 6: Egoism

The first moral theory to be examined is ethical egoism in Chapter 6. Egoism and some of its appeal is explained. It is not as selfish as it first appears, since it can support jointly benefitting acts, which help others as well as oneself. Psychological egoism is suggested as supporting ethical egoism, but psychological egoism appears tenuous. In addition, ethical egoism has important problems with practicability, moral confirmation, and completeness. The optional content explores the question: “What, at base, is wrong with ethical egoism?” The text explains that egoism has been approached two different ways. The first has treated self-interest in an expansive way, maintaining that any morally right act is always in one’s self-interest. But that appears false. The alternate—and common—interpretation treats self-interest much more narrowly, which keeps egoism from supporting many jointly benefitting acts. This makes egoism a narrow and largely individualistic morality and betrays egoism’s deep problem, for morality is not so narrow or individualistic. Morality is a highly cooperative venture.