Timothy Steward

CPR E 394

7 December 2018

<div align="center">Ethics in Engineering</div>

When engineers work on projects they often are faced with many decisions and have pressures to make a product quickly that has much useful functionality. They may be faced with dilemmas that make it tempting to take shortcuts or do something unethical. The technology that engineers make impacts people's lives. The technology engineers make may put lives at risk, invade people's privacy, and cause health risks. It is important that they have a code of ethics so that engineers have guidelines to follow and protect the interests of customers.

If I was faced with an ethical dilemma, I would recognize the ethical dilemma and figure out why I am faced with it. I would try to make it known to those who I am working for and make sure they understand the situation. I would try to be truthful and expose any wrongdoing. If I was being pressured by others to do something unethical, I would let them know that I won't do it even if that meant leaving the company.

In class we discussed the ethics issue where Volkswagen was making their vehicles so that they only cut their emissions during emissions tests. It seemed very clear that what they were doing was wrong because they were deceiving people about the abilities of their vehicles and putting pollution in the air that hurts people. In addition, they tried to cover up their wrong doing. All our group agreed that they should have not designed their vehicles this way and been honest from the beginning.

Integrity an important ethic because it is necessary for people to trust what you say and that what you do is out of proper motives. It is important to have trust when working with others.

If coworkers don't trust each other, they will waste time questioning each other and checking each other's work. They will be less likely to ask for help from others and knowledge won't spread as easy. If a company doesn't have integrity, their customers will be less likely to trust them. They won't buy as much of the product and the company won't make money. The press might publish articles defaming the company causing the company to lose its reputation and cause hardship for the employees and leadership of the company.

Honesty is another important ethic. Being dishonest, like bad integrity, is bad because it leads to distrust from people. People do not like to be deceived and have feelings of distain when they have been deceived. People want to know the whole truth about what is going and what they buy. If people are skeptical because they think that you are withholding information, they will not want to follow you or buy you product. When companies are not up front about their businesses and try to hide things, they lose the respect of people. For example, when Volkswagen was not honest about their emissions, a lot of people lost respect and trust of the leadership of Volkswagen and the vehicles they drive.

Finally, it is charity is an important ethic in engineering. Engineers and engineering companies have a lot of power in this world and their products will shape the future of how people live. With this power they need make sure that their efforts are helping everyone, especially those who are in need. When companies and people help people in need by show compassion and care, they will gain other's respect and people will want to take a part in what the they are doing. When companies and people abuse their power and hurt those who are vulnerable, they lose other's respect and people will want to avoid and boycott what they are doing. Volkswagen was not showing charity by putting more emissions in their which hurts everyone.

Out of the six engineering virtues, I chose to talk about integrity, honesty, charity because these are what I admire most when I see them. I think integrity, honesty, and charity were relevant to the case study and were not exemplified by Volkswagen in their handing of vehicle emissions. I think that fidelity, responsibility, and self-disciple are also important and not less relevant. Hopefully in the future Volkswagen changes how they operate and puts a higher priority on ethics.