

The Good Life and Confucianism with Stephen Angle

Context on source: Stephen Angle is a professor of East Asian Studies at Wesleyan University. He specializes in Chinese Philosophy, Confucianism, Neo-Confucianism, and comparative philosophy. He is the author of a fantastic little green book called [*Growing Moral: A Confucian Guide to life*](#). It is insightful, friendly, accessible, and hits the sweet spot of 230 engaging pages. He is the co-creator with a few other professors at Wesleyan of an excellent website on philosophy with an abundance of resources called <https://livingagoodlife.com>.

Questions

1. Who were the five main Confucian scholars?
2. Did these thinkers use the term "Confucian?" Did they have another term for it at the time?
3. What was Neo-Confucianism? When was it and how did it come about?
4. What role does the Yin-Yang play in Confucianism?
5. What is Filial Piety? Why is it so important for Confucianism?
6. What is humaneness?
7. What is ritual? Why is ritual important for Confucianism?
8. What is a sage? What would it mean to become a Confucian sage?

9. What is the Confucian view of death and grieving?

10. What are some important issues to consider related to Confucianism and gender?

Reflection Questions

1. Which piece of Confucian advice would be most relevant to help you to become closer to a sage?

2. Which aspect of the conversation did you find most interesting? Important? Surprising?