

# Wadding license

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It seems that everything is already accustomed and completed that in a person good and evil are constantly fighting. But it turns out, they do not always compete, and often even quite peacefully get along - with the permission of the person himself.

People are highly expensive creatures. Moral is a mechanism that evaluates how our actions correspond to the rules of residence in the society of others. And on the one hand, it seems that we all know about it for a long time, but on the other - only now we start to understand how it works.

Scientists have found that the presence of moral principles is important for self-identification: people are inclined to constantly assess the level of their decency, observing their own behavior. Moreover, the totality of actions in the past forms the degree of our morality today. It also turned out that we want to maintain this level - that is, after several not very good actions, we feel the need to do something good to restore the balance. Conversely, having committed a number of good deeds, we feel entitled to teach little dirty. In social psychology, this phenomenon even got a name - "License for whacking cases." Lab experiments have shown, for example, that the choice of "green" products allows people more often to cheer on the exams. They removed the garbage after a picnic - and you can go to the "hare" on the train home. They helped the old woman to move the road - and you can leave the garbage past the urn. It seems ridiculous and far-fetched, but there are also serious finds: so, in one experiment of American psychologists of ethnically white voters, having voted for a black candidate, later than more likely an African American was denied at work.

Psychologists from Florida State University (Cascio Plant, 2015) decided to find out how this effect works when planning the future and determines the nature of the actions in the present. They conducted a series of experiments in which exclusively white students were involved. Half of them needed to imagine that at the end of the semester they will participate in a charitable action for the Red Cross. After that, all students were asked to imagine themselves with a sheriff of a small town, in which racial prejudices are still strong, and the attitude towards the blacks even at the police department is not the most rainbow. Sherifa was to decide who to take on the vacant place of a policeman - a black or white candidate. In another experiment, the idea was invited to become a donor in the near future. After that, racial prejudices were openly tested using a questionnaire. It turned out that the planning of moral behavior in the future (participation in charity) makes people more prone to racial intolerance in the present: "Sheriff" preferred to hire a white, and "donor" with a smaller desire agreed to live near black and found racist jokes funny and relevant.

Please note: people just promised that they would do something good - and it is not known whether there will be when the time to act will come. But to behave slightly immorally, they begin immediately! The question remains - is it gives a "license for whacking cases" it is an announcement by other plans for nonsense actions, or even just think about them? And yet - if someone seriously

intends to become a "bad girl" in December, does it make it cute and fluffy in November?

Cascio J., Plant E. A. Prospective Moral Licensing: Does Anticipating Doing Good Later Allow You to Be Bad Now? // Journal of Experimental Social Psychology. 2015. 56 (0). 110-116. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jesp.2014.09.009>.

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