

Handout: Confucianism

Confucianism is a philosophy which has influenced and still strongly influences people in many Asian countries. According to Confucius five relationships are central to happiness and wellbeing:

1. The ruler should be obeyed and respected by all. Loyalty on the part of subjects should be repaid with benevolence [doing good to others] on the part of the ruler.
2. A son must respect his parents and parents must love their son.
3. Younger brothers must respect older brothers, who have a responsibility to look after them.
4. A wife must respect her husband.
5. A person must respect all his friends.