“Legislating Morality”: Focus Questions

1) How is it that the ethnic diversity of American society makes it more difficult to legislate over areas of personal morality?

2) What does the narrator mean when he says that *all laws* have a moral framework? Is this true? Explain.

3) What is the distinction that is drawn between **morals** and **ethics** in this program?

4) It is alleged that the US Government is somewhat arbitrary in the areas of morality over which it legislates (i.e., it picks and chooses selectively). Is this true? If so, which areas of morality does the Government turn a blind eye towards?

5) William Graham Summer is often quoted for saying “stateways cannot change folkways.” In other words, making laws is not an effective way to alter the customs of how people actually behave. Do you agree with this? Give an example that supports this proposition? Can you think of any contrary examples?