Charles Barkley, former NBA star and friend of Tiger Woods, appeared on ESPN Radio in April and was asked whether Michael Jordan and himself were aware of Tiger’s extramarital affairs. Barkley responded in the following manner to Scott Van Pelt Show co-host Ryan Casillas:

“Tiger’s a grown man and I thought the whole thing was funny that we knew this stuff was going on and I will say this, even if I knew it was going on it’s none of my business. I had no idea it was going on. Not speaking for Michael. But I want to make it perfectly clear if I had known, it’s still none of my business. What you do – what Scott do – what Michael do, what my brother do in their personal life that ain’t none of my business and America wants you to feel like what you do in your personal business is their business. It’s not their personal business.”

Barkley’s views are echoed by many today. Many of us have said that what John Doe does is his business, not mine. We can refer to this view with a commonly known phrase: mind your own business. However, is this view correct? If Barkley is wrong and someone else’s personal business should be revealed, are there limits to what others should know about someone else’s personal life? If the philosopher Tom Morris is correct when he states that philosophy is “advice for everyday life,” then this view about our personal lives has philosophical implications. Personal business or some call it, “my personal life,” refers to information regarding our lives that is known exclusively by ourselves and is deemed to be out of bounds from the knowledge of others without our permission. Sometimes that information is accessible by our immediate family and close friends. Surely what we disclose to others about our personal life is up to us.