

Morality and Ethics

By: Raymond Mulholland



Morality and Ethics Goals

- 1) Define Morality and Ethics
- 2) Compare major moral foundations
- 3) Choose the “best” moral foundation
- 4) Understand how the “best” foundation works
- 5) Ethical models and thought exercises
- 6) Specific pro-life moral and ethical situations



Morality and Ethics

Definitions



Morality: A system or means to determine right from wrong

Ethics: The application of morality to personal and group behavior

Ethical Behavior: To act in a manner consistent with one's stated moral beliefs

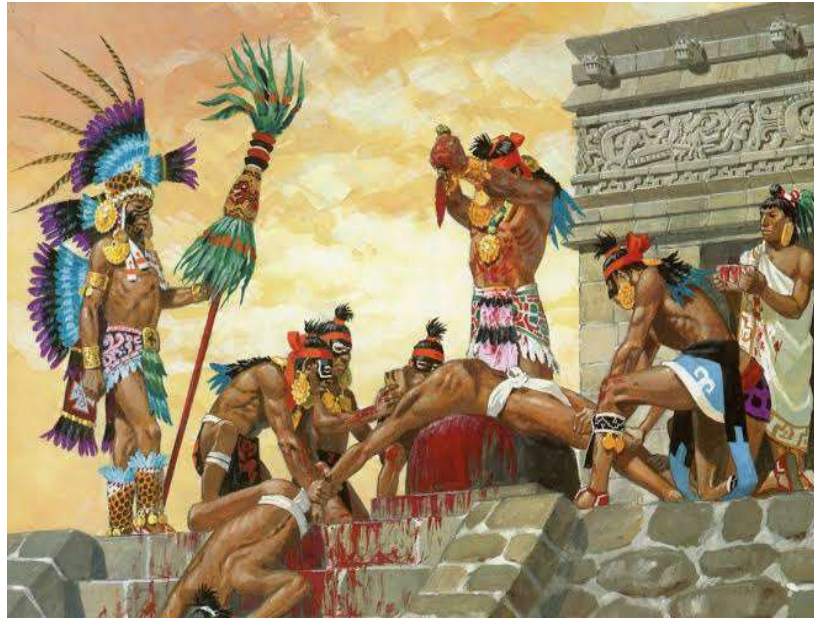
Unethical Behavior: To act in a manner inconsistent with one's stated moral beliefs

Morality and Ethics

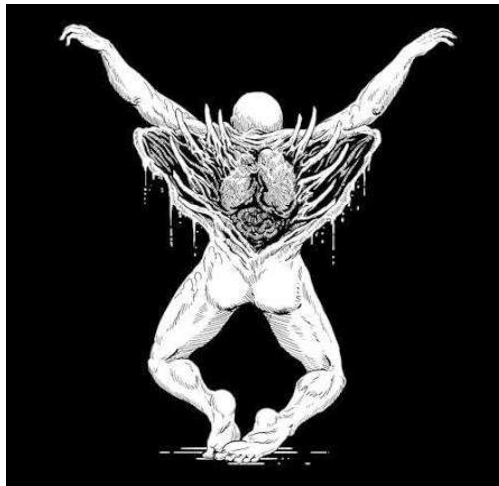
Definition Case Studies Pt 1



Death of William Crawford
by Delaware Indians (1782)



Aztec human
sacrifice



Viking Blood Eagle

Morality and Ethics

Definition Case Studies Pt 2



Giving smallpox infested garments to Native Americans

Execution of Anneken Hendricks during the Inquisition

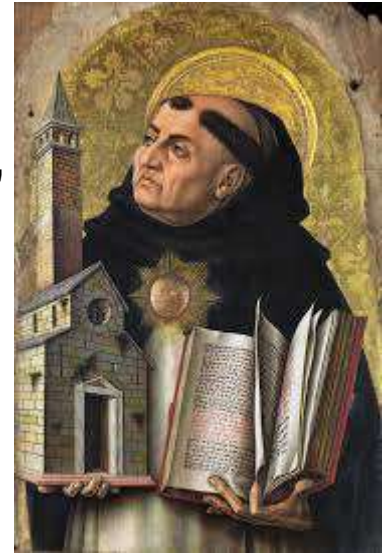


Morality and Ethics

Metaphysics of Morality

“It is to be borne in mind ... that the inferior sciences neither prove their principles nor dispute with those who deny them, but leave this to a higher science.” -*Summa Theologica*, the sixth edition, First Part, Question 1: "The Nature and Extent of sacred Doctrine," 8th Article, Saint Thomas Aquinas

Christian morals are not self-proving as to be correct, nor do they deny the morals of another faith. There needs to be a higher study from which to contrast and compare the merits of each moral system.



Many Christians have “faith” so ingrained into their psyche that they actually reject any evidence of Jehovah's existence as an attack on Jehovah

Atheists, especially those who are professors in college, are quite successful in recruiting our youth into their ranks simply by pointing out that faith without evidence is irrational

If Christianity is indeed true, then there is no need to fear an honest, rational comparison of it to other faiths

Morality and Ethics

Metaphysics of Morality-Lost and Gained

What is lost by the Christian: the ability to assume anyone who thinks different must be wrong

What is won by the Christian: able to show what the world would look like without Christianity



What is won by the non-Christian: he finally gets to explain his point of view

What is lost by the non-Christian: he can't simply assume Christian views will “fill in the gaps” of his own theories

Morality and Ethics

Metaphysics of Morality-Objective Standards

Universality - it must address all members of the group

Personal Responsibility

- Each member needs to contribute to it
- At some point, ethics must be unpleasant
- What motivates individuals to abide by it?

Purpose - for “good” to exist, there must be a goal

Consistent - participants should be able to expect certain outcomes based on specific actions



Morality and Ethics

Moral Foundations

Nature

- Determinism
- Law of Nature
- Hedonism
- Evolutionism (bridges into Philosophical)

Philosophical (Man)

- Virtue Theory/Natural Law Theory
- Scientism
- Utilitarianism
- Contrantarianism
- Kantianism
- Communism
- A La Carte*

Supernatural

- Paganism
- Dualism
- Samsara* (Karma and Reincarnation)
- Islam
- Judaism/Christianity



Morality and Ethics

Natural Foundations - Determinism

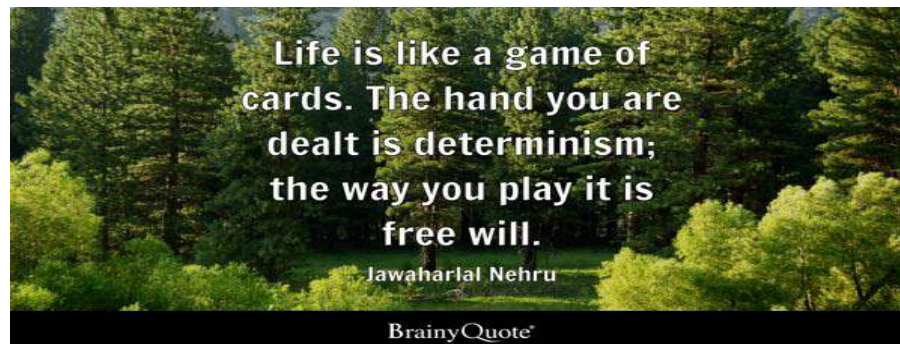
What is it? - A belief that free will does not exist, that all our actions based on atomic behavior
 - Morality is an illusion

Is it Universal? yes, for objects consisting of at least one atom, but it does not explain sub-atomic behavior

Does it address Personal Responsibility? no, it denies personal responsibility exists

Does it provide a purpose? no, our behaviors were predicted at the moment of the Big Bang

Is it Consistent? impossible to tell, it would require having perfect knowledge of every atom in the universe and demonstrating how it completely controls all human thought



Morality and Ethics

Natural Foundations - Law of Nature

What is it? -A belief that what exists in nature must be good
 -Can also be described as “Law of the Jungle”

Is it Universal? yes, the need to survive is common to all life

Does it address Personal Responsibility? no, it relies on the natural order to provide checks and balances against excess

Does it provide a purpose? yes, it maintains the “circle of life”

Is it Consistent? no, as animals with reason (i.e., humans) will invariably use reason to overcome the checks and balances that the natural order provides



Morality and Ethics

Natural Foundations - Hedonism



What is it? A belief that what makes one feel good must be good

Is it Universal? no, what pleases one may be unpleasant to another

Does it address Personal Responsibility? no, it places self before others

Does it provide a purpose? yes, momentary pleasure

Is it Consistent? no, what pleases one now may lead to much pain and suffering later

Morality and Ethics

Natural Foundations - Evolutionism

Pt 1

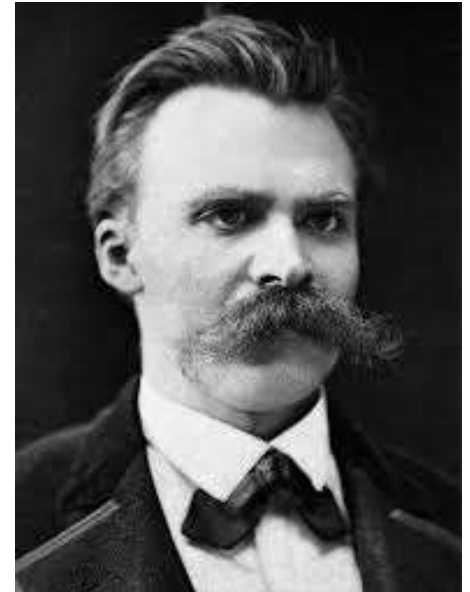
What is it? A belief that man's understanding of what is good needed to evolve over the ages

Contrary to popular opinion today, the “fathers of atheism” had great respect for Christian morality, it was the “oppression” of the Church that they rebelled against

They viewed religion as a necessary step in the evolution of morality, but with the Age of Enlightenment, “reason” had evolved from “superstition”

This evolutionary step would allow man to form a more perfect system of morality than Christianity, and without an oppressive Church to restrict this “more perfect system”

Many of the following moral foundations to be discussed are moral theories that led from this attitude



Morality and Ethics

Natural Foundations - Evolutionism

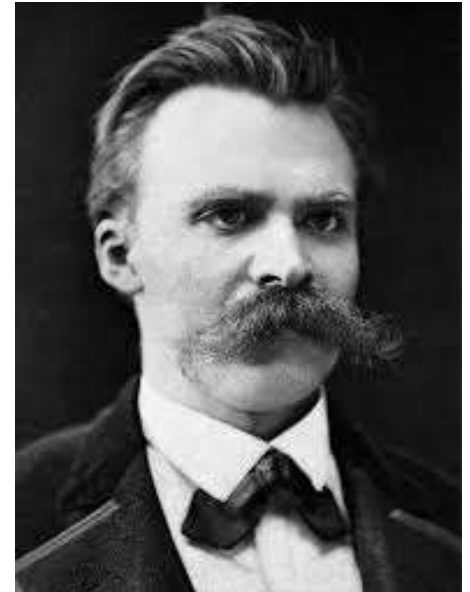
Pt 2

Is it Universal? no, despite the belief that man's ability to better recognize goodness was evolutionary, no consensus on how to define good from bad has ever been made

Does it address Personal Responsibility? no, it assumes that, as the species evolves, higher individuals will behave better than more primitive versions of humanity

Does it provide a purpose? yes, it seeks a better society

Is it Consistent? no, not only has no consensus ever been made for a system to recognize good and bad, philosophical moral systems are very prone to moral dilemmas as ethical imperatives come into conflict with each other



Morality and Ethics

Philosophical Foundations - Virtue Theory/Natural Law Theory, Pt 1

What is it? A belief that man's natural strength over other animals is his ability to reason, coupled with the idea that man ought to use this strength wisely.

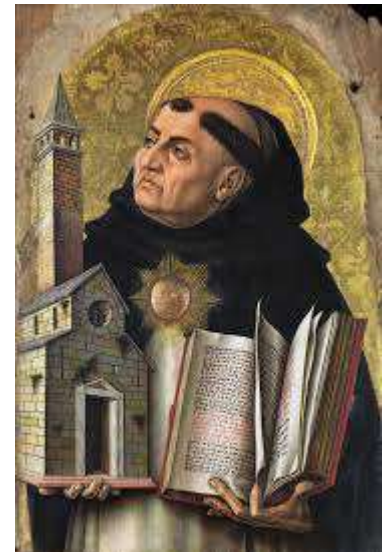


Is it Universal? yes, as the ability to reason is common to all humans

Does it address Personal Responsibility?

- yes, because of the need to use reason wisely
- learning to be virtuous requires a “Moral Exemplar”

Does it provide a purpose? yes, as it seeks either a better society (Virtue Theory) or as a means of doing God's will (Natural Law Theory)



Is it Consistent? yes, as most people, given the same facts and using the system as intended will usually come up with the same or similar outcomes. Indeed, “universal morality” is well attested world wide and throughout time.

Morality and Ethics

Philosophical Foundations - Virtue Theory/Natural Law Theory, Pt 2

“I have not slain men” (Ancient Egyptian, the Confession of the Righteous Soul)

“In hell I saw ... murderers” (Old Norse, *Volospá*)

“Utter not a word by which anyone could be wounded” (Hindu, Janet)

“Never do to others what you would not like them to do to you” (*Analects of Confucius*)

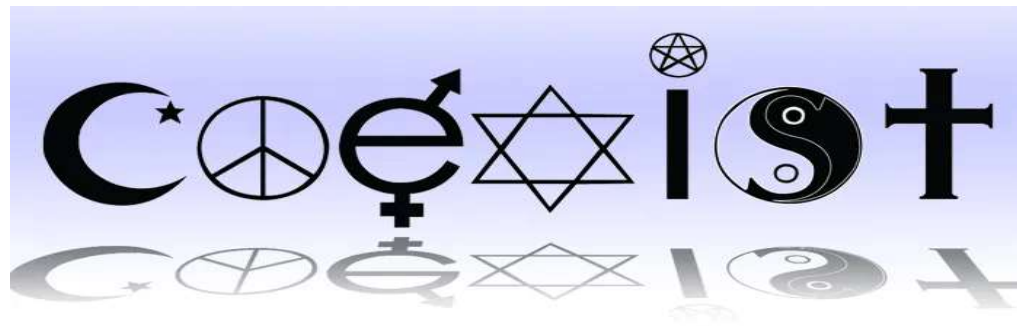
“He who is asked for alms should always give” (Hindu, Janet)

“Brothers shall fight and be each others' bane” (Old Norse, Account of the Evil Age before the World's end, *Volospá*)

“Your father is an image of the Lord of Creation, your mother an image of the Earth. For him who fails to honor them, every work of piety is in vain. This is the first duty.” (Hindu, Janet)

“To marry and to beget children” (Greek, List of Duties, Epictetus)

read the appendix to C.S. Lewis book, “The Abolition of Man” for more



Morality and Ethics

Philosophical Foundations - Scientism

What is it? A belief that science alone can answer moral questions, determine human values, and replace traditional ethics

Is it Universal? yes, human behavior can be studied

Does it address Personal Responsibility? no, the scientist determines ethical behavior for the rest of society, individuals are merely statistics

Does it provide a purpose? yes, to progressively improve man's behavior through study

Is it Consistent? no, morality will change with each new discovery or analysis

“We say it is 'explanation' but it is only in 'description' that we are in advance of the older stages of knowledge and science. We describe better[,] we explain just as little as our predecessors.” Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Gay Science*



Morality and Ethics

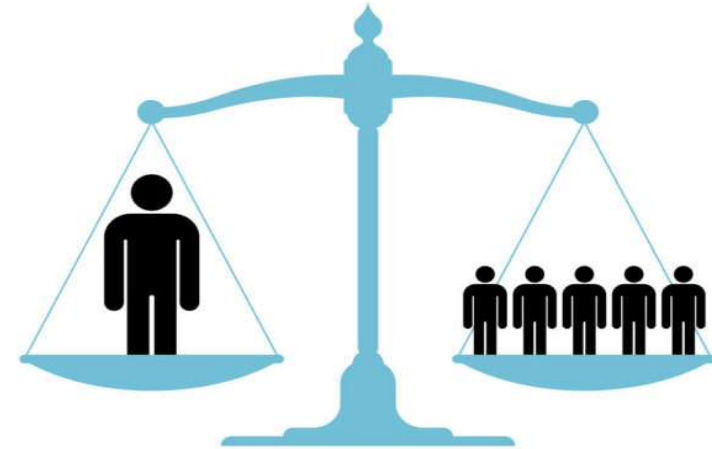
Philosophical Foundations - Utilitarianism

Pt 1

What is it? A belief that, with each action, the greatest good must be done for the greatest number of people

Two types

- Act Utilitarianism: focuses on each individual act
- Rule Utilitarianism: seeks general rules for society as a whole



Ideally, “goodness” would be arbitrated by a “benevolent, disinterested spectator”

Less formally, in most situations “goodness” would be obvious or easily determined (such as by vote)

Morality and Ethics

Philosophical Foundations - Utilitarianism

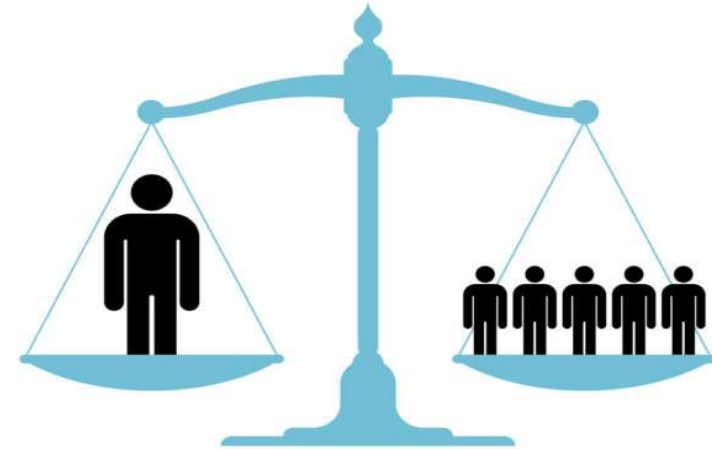
Pt 2

Is it Universal? yes, as the greatest good to the most people must be done

Does it address Personal Responsibility? yes, as everyone is expected to contribute to the greatest good without exception

Does it provide a purpose? yes, to ensure the greatest number of people benefit

Is it Consistent? no, as what is “good” can be defined and redefined as time, opinions, and attitudes change



Morality and Ethics

Philosophical Foundations -

Contractarianism Pt 1



What is it? A belief that all interactions with another ought to be done on a mutually beneficial contractual basis

This form of morality assumes all humans are capable of making informed, rational decisions

Anyone who benefits from the contract is bound by it, even if not voluntarily

Theoretically, anyone can leave it at any time, but in reality it may be difficult or impossible to leave

Morality and Ethics

Philosophical Foundations - Contractarianism Pt 2



Is it Universal? yes, even for those who did not formally agree

Does it address Personal Responsibility? no, as it rewards those who can manipulate the terms of the agreement

Does it provide a purpose? yes, but limited to each specific contract, and every interaction between people needs a specific contract

Is it Consistent? no, as one is theoretically able to break the contract at any time, and those with great power can force undesirable contracts on those with little power

Morality and Ethics

Philosophical Foundations - Kantianism

What is it? A belief that moral imperatives are inviolable, that humans are ends in themselves, and that humans must be able to act autonomously

Is it Universal? yes, everyone is bound by them

Does it address Personal Responsibility? yes, one is responsible for one's own actions towards others

Does it provide a purpose? yes, to create a better society

Is it Consistent? no, as having more than one moral imperative means they can be brought in conflict with each other (Ethical Dilemma).



Morality and Ethics

Philosophical Foundations - Socialism

What is it? A belief that work is good and that labor is bad

Is it Universal? yes, but it requires a “hive mind”

Does it address Personal Responsibility? no, one only acts unethical if an oppressive influence made one do it

Does it provide a purpose? yes, to create “man perfected”

Is it Consistent? no, as it is based on Hegel's “*Aufhaben*”



Morality and Ethics

Philosophical Foundations - *A La Carte*



Menu

A La Carte

Appetizers

Fried Pickles	6
Fried Calamari	12
Onion Rings	8
Loaded Nachos	15
Hot wings	14

Cold Dishes

Buffalo Chicken wrap	13
Smoked Turkey wrap	14
Blackened Ahi wrap	12
Caesar Salad	8
Steak Salad	10

Main Dishes

Grilled Tuna Steak	24
Grilled Salmon	22
Roasted Duck Breast	26
Chicken Primavera	20

Sides

Roasted Cauliflower	3
Garlic Mashed	4
Sauteed Vegetables	3
Rice	2
Potato Wedges	3
Mac and Cheese	5
Coleslaw	4

Drinks

Coke Products	3
Wine	6
Beer	4
Sparkling Water	3

What is it? Cherry picking moral imperatives to suit one's fancy

- “Why can't we just get along?”
- “No one has any right to tell another what to do.”
- “Animals have rights, but unborn children do not.”
- “Christians” are notorious for being very selective in what scriptures they follow

Is it Universal? no, each practitioner chooses his own imperatives

Does it address Personal Responsibility? no, the practitioner expects others to improve to match his ideal, he never has to consider the morals of others

Does it provide a purpose? yes, to manipulate others

Is it Consistent? no, little or no thought is put into the imperatives chosen, or how they might interact with each other

Morality and Ethics

Supernatural Foundations - Paganism

What is it? A belief that good and bad are determined by supernatural beings

NOTE “Paganism” will exclude Brahma, Yahweh, Jehovah, Allah, and dualistic gods (including Zoroastrianism), most of which will be studied separately

Is it Universal? no, most pagan cultures recognize the “validity” of other pagan cultures

Does it address Personal Responsibility? yes, but only to the extent of serving the needs of the gods

Does it provide a purpose? yes, varies by pantheon

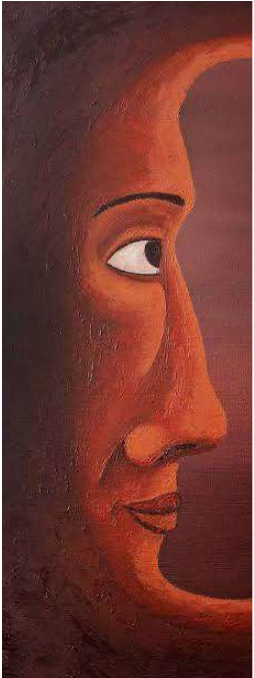
- man provides power to the gods to keep the universe in order
- some advanced pagan religions believe in the afterlife of the worshipers



Is it Consistent? no, pagan gods are notoriously fickle, petty and whimsical
- “Do not make the gods angry” is the only consistent moral

Morality and Ethics

Supernatural Foundations - Dualism

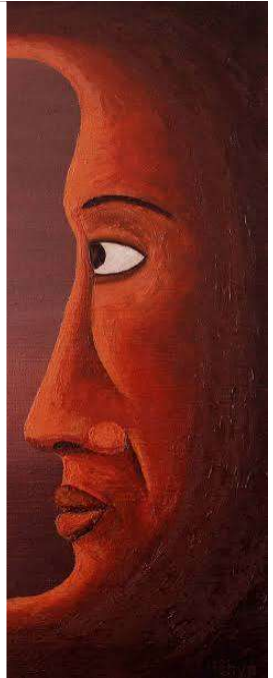


What is it? A belief that there are two ultimate powers that are equal but opposite, and that they are in perfect balance

Is it Universal? yes, it looks at everything in terms of one of the two powers

Does it address Personal Responsibility? no, as whatever one does to upset the balance must automatically be balanced out elsewhere

Does it provide a purpose? no, as ultimately everything must balance out and be equal, if not identical, at the end



Is it Consistent? no, as history seems to show that, although great cultures collapse, man is still better off after the fall than before the rise

I include Zoroastrianism here because, while Ahura Mazda (the creator) is stronger than Angra Mainyu (or Ahriman), his influence is nonetheless so limited that Angra Mainyu is, for practical purposes, his equal

Morality and Ethics

Supernatural Foundations - *Samsara*



What is it? A belief in reincarnation where one's actions in the present life will influence the life to come (karma), but karma is also commonly applied to one's present life

Is it Universal? yes, even animals are assumed part of the reincarnation process

Does it address Personal Responsibility? yes, as one can greatly influence one's next life, and good deeds often result in good outcomes in present life as well

Does it provide a purpose? yes, one is to seek spiritual annihilation, which is the ultimate escape from troubles

Is it Consistent? yes in regards to reincarnation, but very often “no” in this life as many good deeds are actually punished

Morality and Ethics

Supernatural Foundations - Islam

What is it? A belief in strict obedience to the law of Allah as revealed to His prophet Mohammad

Is it Universal? no, people are freely able to reject it and become a lower class citizen

Does it address Personal Responsibility? no, as obedience to the law is what is necessary, not personal improvement

Does it provide a purpose? yes, faithful followers are allowed into a paradise after death

Is it Consistent? no

- Many requirements are very vague and subject to a mullah's interpretation
- Allah can, and has, eliminated previous imperatives in favor of new

“If We ever abrogate a verse or cause it to be forgotten, We replace it with a better or similar one. Do you not know that Allah is Most Capable of everything?” Quoran Surah 2:106



Morality and Ethics

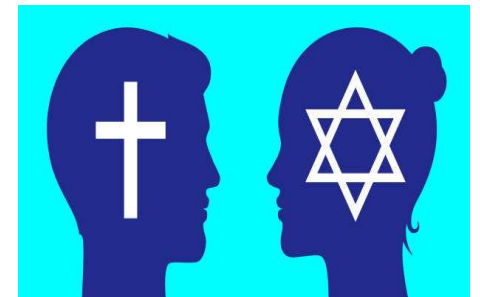
Supernatural Foundations - Judaism/Christianity

What is it? A belief that man was made by God to be great, that man fell from this calling, and that God devised a plan to return man to his proper place in creation

Is it Universal?

Judaism - no as Yahweh's plan was for Hebrews only

Christianity - yes as the Messiah came for all of mankind



Does it address Personal Responsibility?

Judaism yes, but primarily through obedience to the law

Christianity yes, by becoming as Christlike as possible (humble, self-reflecting, merciful, honest, loving, forgiving, etc.)

Does it provide a purpose? yes, resurrection into a perfect life forever

Is it Consistent?

Judaism - no (at least not in practice), as love of neighbor did not guide the interpretation of the *Tanakh*

Christianity - yes, as all commandments of God are to be seen through the lens of loving God and one's neighbor

Morality and Ethics

Moral Foundations - Objective Winners

Only three moral foundations met all four criteria in our objective analysis:

Virtue Theory/Natural Law Theory
Samsara
Christianity

To continue our pursuit to find the “best” moral foundation, we will have to apply subjective criteria. The criteria needs to be something that most people would find agreeable.



Morality and Ethics

Moral Foundations - Subjective Criteria



“What's in it for me?”

- As self improvement was a requirement for all three theories, seeking to benefit from this work is a just expectation
- The greater the benefit, the more likely one will accept the moral foundation

Virtue Theory One gets to feel good about oneself (*Eudaimonia*)

Samsara Release from pain *via* spiritual annihilation

Christianity Eternal bliss in heaven

I am going to assume that most people would prefer heaven over other choices

Morality and Ethics

What Does Christian Morals and Ethics Look Like?

The Four Moral Laws

The Seven Virtues



Morality and Ethics

The Four Laws, Pt 1

1) Eternal Law

- The “plan” by which God created the Universe (it's the embodiment of God's will)
- It is infinite in scope, so we can never know it fully
- It is the ultimate form of Determinism, yet it allows free will to manipulate creation to a certain extent, albeit with appropriate consequences

2) Natural Law (aka Natural Law Theory)

- Through *Imago Dei* (image of God), we can use reason to grasp certain aspects of the Eternal Law on our own



Morality and Ethics

The Four Laws, Pt 2

3) The Divine Law (aka Revealed Law)

Mainly provided to us through the Bible, although God continues to use prophets

Justifies Natural Law

Complements Natural Law by providing checks and balances to theories that come from Natural Law

The use of reason still applies to understanding Divine Law



Morality and Ethics

The Four Laws, Pt 3

3) The Divine Law (continued)

Divine Law says that love of God is the greatest commandment, and that love of neighbor is the second greatest commandment

Therefore, ANY other commandment of Divine Law must be seen through the lens of loving God and neighbor, NOT the other way around



Morality and Ethics

The Four Laws, pt 4

4) The Human Law (aka Civil and Ecclesiastical Law)

- Fulfills the need for society to operate in a smooth and consistent manner
- It is just only as long as it is in accordance with Eternal Law

However

- We can only judge the justness of Human Law by a proper understanding of the Natural and Divine Laws
- Even when unjust laws exist, Natural and Divine Law do not allow simple anarchy
- Again, the reason we received from *Imago Dei* applies when judging Human Law



Morality and Ethics

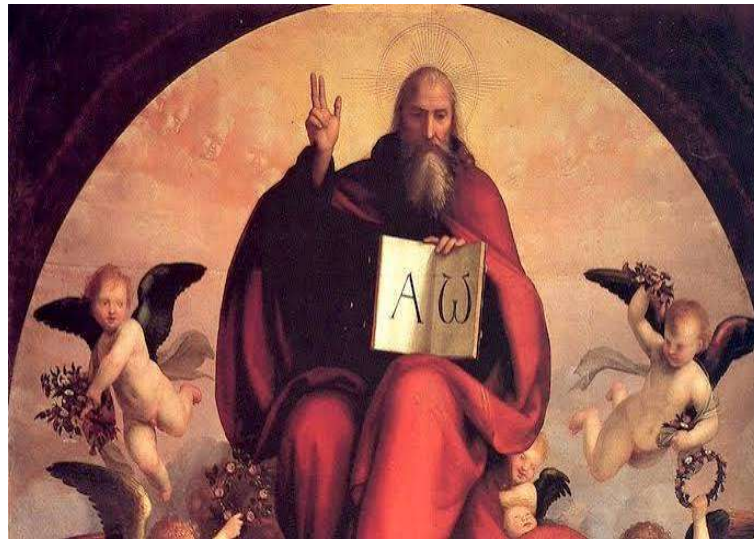
Four Laws: How Does This Come Together?

Pt 1

Start with Eternal Law

- It is the ultimate authority on what is and isn't moral, and therefore what is and isn't ethical
- We can only understand Eternal Law through our own observations and reflections (Natural Law) and from what is revealed to us (Divine Law)
- Therefore, we must use Natural Law and Divine Law when discerning good, bad and indifferent

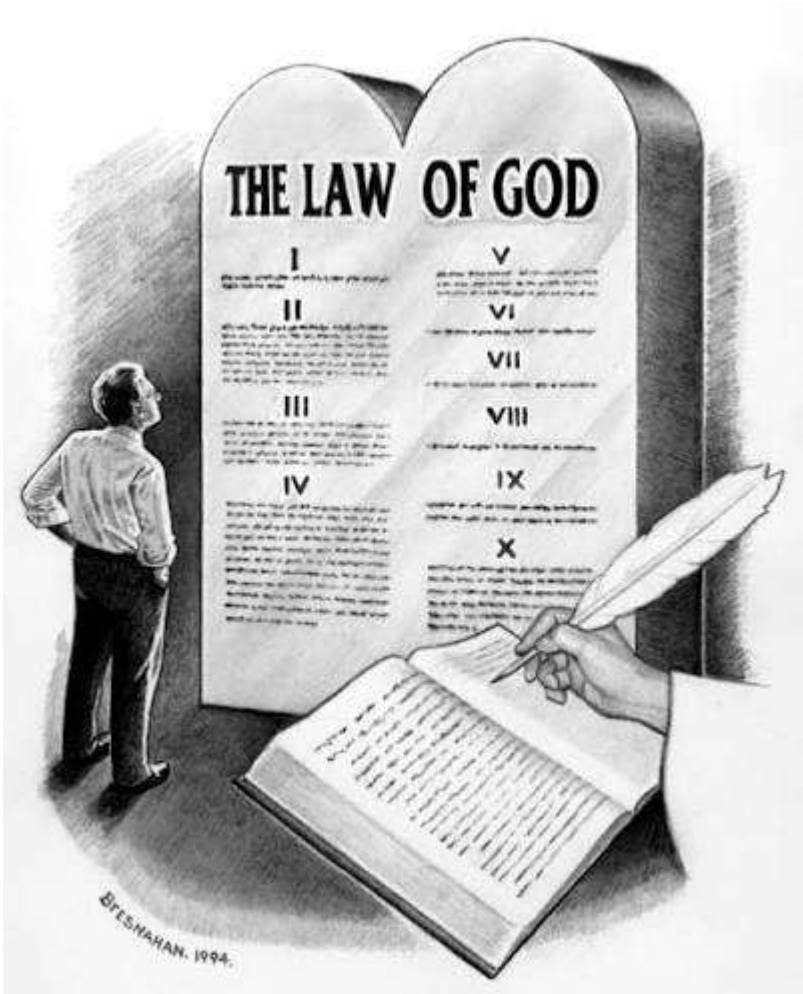
As Divine Law is “from the source” of Eternal Law, we should look at it next



Morality and Ethics

Four Laws: How Does This Come Together?

Pt 2



What do we learn from Divine Law?

- That there is a law that governs creation, and that it is based on reason
- That we are made in the image of God (*Imago Dei*), therefore we have the ability to understand Eternal Law
- If we have the ability to understand, then we must have the ability to reason
- If we have the ability to reason, then we are moral agents capable of discerning this law by observation and reflection

BUT

- We also learn that we are imperfect, therefore such understanding will be imperfect
- By having imperfect understanding, Natural Law will be imperfect

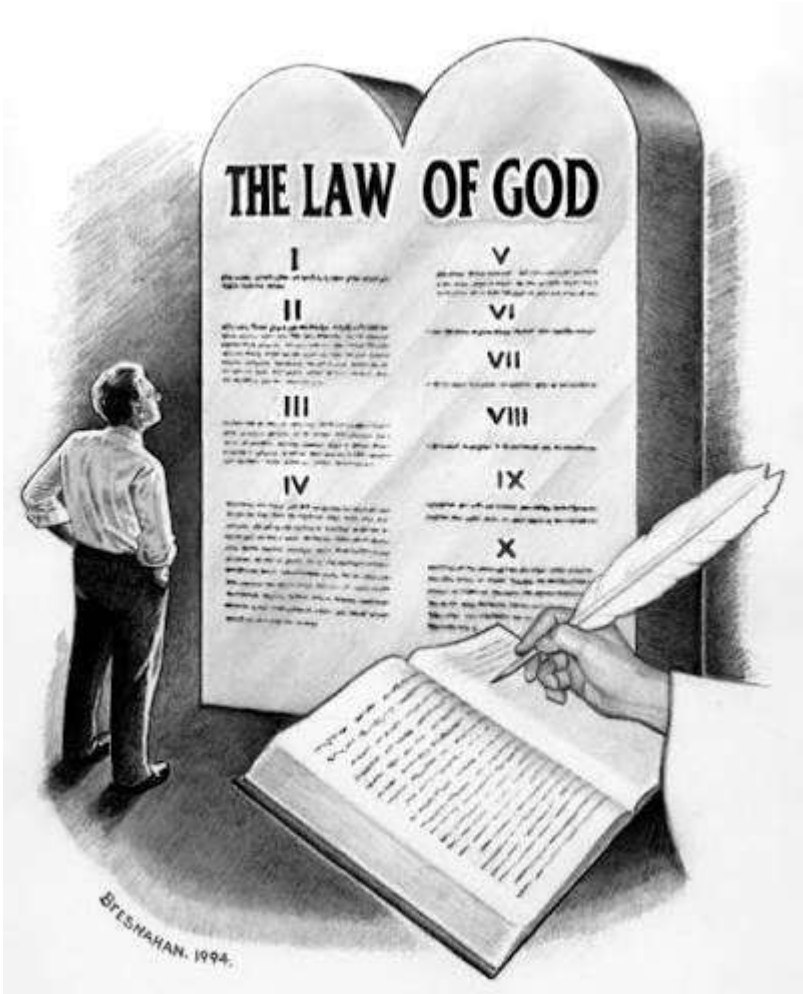
BUT

- Divine Law also has guidelines and boundaries to help keep Natural Law in check

Morality and Ethics

Four Laws: How Does This Come Together?

Pt 3



How does Divine Law assist us with Natural Law?

Provides criteria from which we ought to base our Natural Law

Provides guidelines on how our thought process ought to proceed

Provides checks and balances to ensure our conclusions are in harmony with Eternal Law

IN OTHER WORDS: Divine Law first justifies the use of Natural Law as a primary means of discerning Morality and Ethics, then provides guidelines and boundaries for Natural Law to explore, and finally provides the means of knowing if our conclusions are compatible with Eternal Law

Morality and Ethics

The Seven Virtues, Pt 1

The Cardinal Virtues (virtues granted by *Imago Dei*, the foundation of Natural Law)

1) Prudence

- Foremost of all Cardinal Virtues
- The ability to develop alternative ideas to a situation and to be able to foresee likely outcomes of each alternative

2) Justice

- Because *Imago Dei* exists in all humans, the dignity of all humans must be respected equally
- Proper use of justice means that loving one's neighbor will always be obeyed



Morality and Ethics

The Seven Virtues, Pt 2

The Cardinal Virtues (continued)

3) Temperance

Recognizes that there are degrees of separation between extremes

Building on the concept of degrees of separation, one recognizes that solutions can vary by degree depending on specific circumstances of a given situation

In terms of Justice, Temperance decides if the punishment fits the infraction

- “Does he deserve this?”
- Temperance is the foundation for “mercy”



Morality and Ethics

The Seven Virtues, Pt 3

The Cardinal Virtues (continued)

4) Fortitude (Courage)

- Very simply, the strength to do what is right when it is not to one's benefit
- C.S. Lewis noted that no other virtue has value if not married to Fortitude
- Unlike previous three, which are “workhorse” virtues of Ethics, Fortitude is rarely, if ever, part of the Ethical decision making process



Morality and Ethics

The Seven Virtues, Pt 4

The Theological Virtues (virtues granted by the Holy Spirit, not reason)

5) Faith: Belief in God and in all that He has told us

6) Hope: Gives us a desire for an eternal life with God in heaven

7) Charity: Lets us love God for God's sake, and our neighbor for our neighbor's sake

Provides the grounding from which personal improvement is possible

- There is no “rule lawyering” with God, either we please Him or we do not
- Final judgment will be His, and we need to humble our desire to see justice done to His will
- Justice is done on His timeline, not ours



Morality and Ethics

The Golden Rule

“Do to others whatever you would have them do to you.
This is the law and the prophets” Jesus, Matthew 7:12

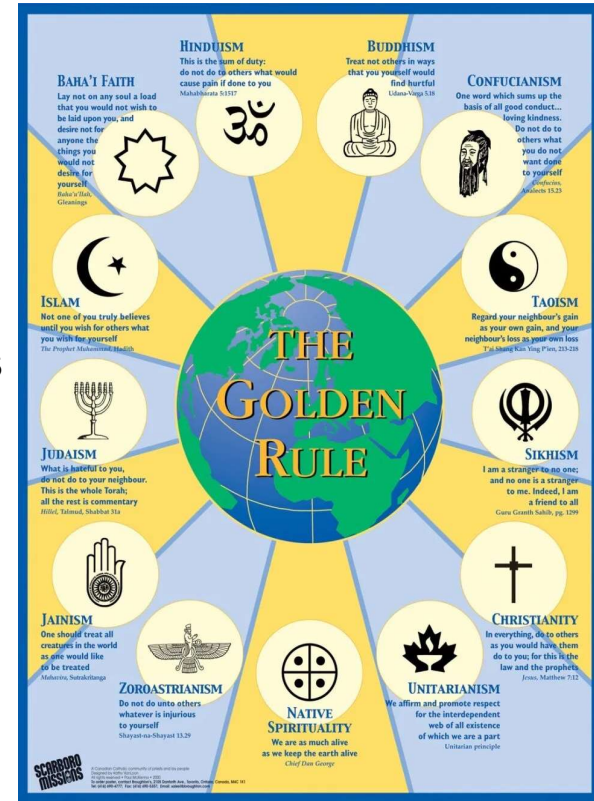
The most unique of all Biblical imperatives: it not only instructs, it calls for honest self-reflection

Note that Jesus said that this simple sentence summarizes the entire *Tanack*

- In a manner similar as the two greatest commandments, any personal interpretation of morality must be seen as if one were the person judgment was being given to

It is not a uniquely Christian concept, every major religion and philosophical culture had its own version of it

- If love of God and of neighbor is the supreme command of Revealed Law, the Golden Rule is the supreme command of Natural Law



Morality and Ethics

Natural Law Theory

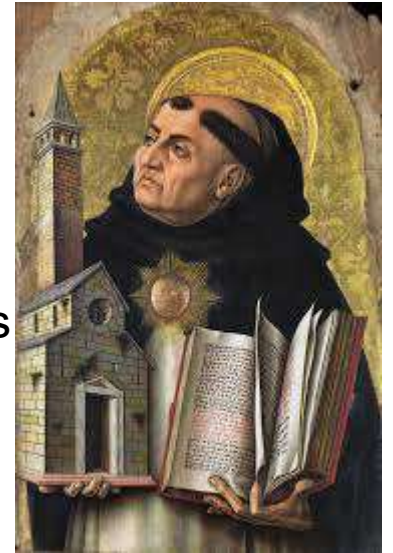
Developed by Saint Thomas Aquinas

Based on Aristotle's Virtue Theory and adjusted for Christian Theology

The virtues that Saint Thomas chose were the four Cardinal Virtues

At no time did Saint Thomas ignore Divine Law, he was exploring what Divine Law would allow in Virtue Theory

As such, one needs to incorporate the Theological Virtues along with the Cardinal Virtues



Morality and Ethics

Natural Law Theory: Case Study 1

Situation: You find a coin on the sidewalk, but did not see who dropped it

Prudence: One can either leave it on the sidewalk, or take it for oneself

Justice: As there is no way to identify the owner, no harm or benefit is being done to them either way

Temperance: This is a rare example of all or nothing, as one cannot take “some” of the coin

Fortitude: One is not worse off by leaving the coin behind, a rare case when fortitude is not necessary

Theological Virtues: Trust in God's promise that He will take care of those you can't



Morality and Ethics

Natural Law Theory: Case Study 2

Situation: Boy goes to college and is offered a chance to go to a party

Prudence:

- Need to get good grades
- Need to avoid anything immoral

Justice:

- Celebrating is a fundamental aspect of Biblical human dignity
- Need avoid anything illegal (which disrespects the dignity of society as a whole)

Temperance: How much time is necessary for study and other essential activities?

Fortitude: Be able to say “no” when necessary

Theological Virtues: Knowing there will be a price to be paid for a poor decision, even if grades are maintained



Morality and Ethics

Natural Law Theory: Cast Study 3

Situation: Nazi occupied Europe, you know where some Jews are being hidden, and the Gestapo questions you

Prudence: Telling the Gestapo will get them killed, but refusing to cooperate, or being caught in a lie, may get you killed

Justice: The commandments of “not bearing false witness” (Exodus 20:16 and Deuteronomy 5:20) and of loving one's neighbor are coming into conflict

Temperance: As loving one's neighbor is the second greatest commandment, telling a lie must be seen through the lens of what is best for the Jews

Fortitude: Only comes into play if one resists the Gestapo

Theological Virtues: Knowing that God has a plan for you and the Jews being hunted



Morality and Ethics

Natural Law Theory: Case Study 4

Situation: A trolley is coming, you are at a fork in the tracks. The trolley will head down a track with five people on it, but the other track has one. What do you do?

Prudence:

- Not making a decision is making a decision (the *status quo* decision)
- Is there an exceptional person involved?

Justice: All life has dignity, either choice will be a violation of this dignity

Temperance: Which option shows the most love of neighbor - saving five or saving one?

Fortitude: Do what one feels is right, as no matter which option is chosen, much controversy will ensue

Theological Virtues: Knowing that God has a plan for whomever you let die



Morality and Ethics

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NOTE this parallels the dilemma of the Sanhedrin concerning Jesus

Morality and Ethics

Doctrine of Double Effect Pt 1

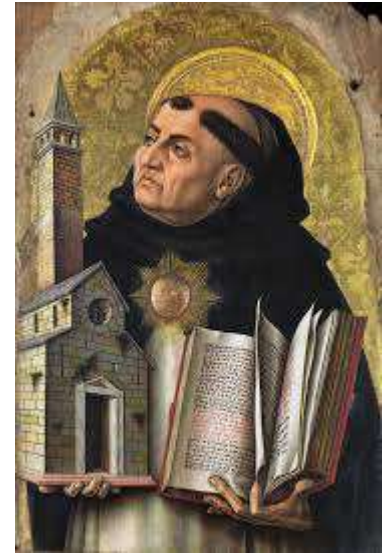
Also developed by Saint Thomas Aquinas

It primarily deals with Ethical Dilemmas, where a good action is paired with a bad result

It is a simplified version of Natural Law Theory, incorporating elements of Prudence, Justice and Temperance while taking Fortitude for granted

It provides 4 criteria to determine if an action that will cause both good and bad results is ethical:

- 1) The act itself must be morally good or neutral (Justice)
- 2) The good result must be the intent, with the bad result foreseeable but regretful (Justice)
- 3) The bad result must not be the means for the good result (Prudence)
- 4) The good must outweigh the bad (Temperance)



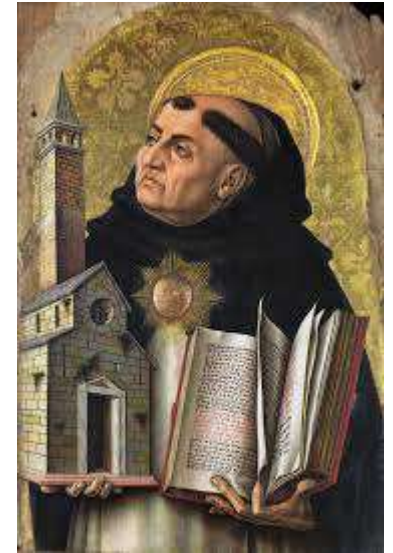
Morality and Ethics

Doctrine of Double Effect Pt 2

Useful in many everyday situations and when the line between good and bad is clear

There are, however, problems with it in more complex situations:

- 1) DDE deals with specific cases, not general codes of conduct
- 2) Personal responsibility can be eroded or even ignored (i.e., vulnerable to a “slippery slope” of moral awareness)
- 3) “Good” and “bad” are highly subjective terms, and Divine Law is not an exhaustive source of guidance (again, we are expected to discern good and bad ourselves)
- 4) Not being able to allow a “bad” to be the means to accomplishing a “good” does prohibit reasonable pragmatic efforts from taking place
- 5) Strict adherence seems to leave out the Theological Virtues in one's Ethics
- 6) The Doctrine of Double Effect seems to question many Biblical accounts of Old Testament God, as well as Jesus' actions on the Sabbath



Morality and Ethics

Doctrine of Double Effect: Case Study 1

Situation: You find a coin on the sidewalk, but did not see who dropped it

Is the act good or neutral: yes, picking up the coin is a neutral act (harm to the original owner has already happened)

Is the good the intent and the bad a regretful side effect: yes, benefiting oneself is the intent and there is no intent to harm the original owner

Is the bad the means to accomplish the good? no, one had no part in the harm done to the original owner

Does the good outweigh the bad? yes, as there is no harm being done to the original owner

Conclusion: Picking up the coin is an ethical action



Morality and Ethics

Doctrine of Double Effect: Cast Study 2

Situation: Boy goes to college and is offered a chance to go to a party - **we will assume bad grades may result from going to this particular party**

Is the act good or neutral: yes, enjoying oneself is a good act

Is the good the intent and the bad a regretful side effect: yes, per conditions stated

Is the bad the means to accomplish the good? no, getting bad grades does not cause one to party

Does the good outweigh the bad? depends on how important the bad grades were to his overall education and how important the party was to his overall mental health

Conclusion: While Doctrine of Double Effect can work here in the macro sense (i.e., over a whole semester), it is inconclusive for a single event



Morality and Ethics

Doctrine of Double Effect: Case Study 3

Situation: Nazi occupied Europe, you know where some Jews are being hidden, and the Gestapo questions you - **we will assume one lies to the Gestapo**

Is the act good or neutral: no, scripture tells us lying is bad

Is the good the intent and the bad a regretful side effect: yes, one wants to save lives and lying is a regretful means to that end

Is the bad the means to accomplish the good? yes, one is lying in order to save lives

Does the good outweigh the bad? yes, saving lives is greater than the lie it took to save them

Conclusion: It is unethical to save lives of the Jews by lying about knowing where they are



Morality and Ethics

Doctrine of Double Effect: Cast Study 4

Situation: A trolley is coming, you are at a fork in the tracks. The trolley will head down a track with five people on it, but the other track has one. - **we will assume the trolley was going down the track with five and one switches it to the track with one**

Is the act good or neutral: yes if five lives are greater than one life, no if one life is equal to five

Is the good the intent and the bad a regretful side effect: yes, if one believes five lives are greater than one life

Is the bad the means to accomplish the good?
no, killing one is the regretful, foreseeable result of saving five lives

Does the good outweigh the bad? yes, if five lives are greater than one

Conclusion: If five lives are greater than one, then switching tracks is ethical. If not, then doing nothing (*status quo* option) is the ethical choice.



Morality and Ethics

Pro-Life and Natural Law Pt 1

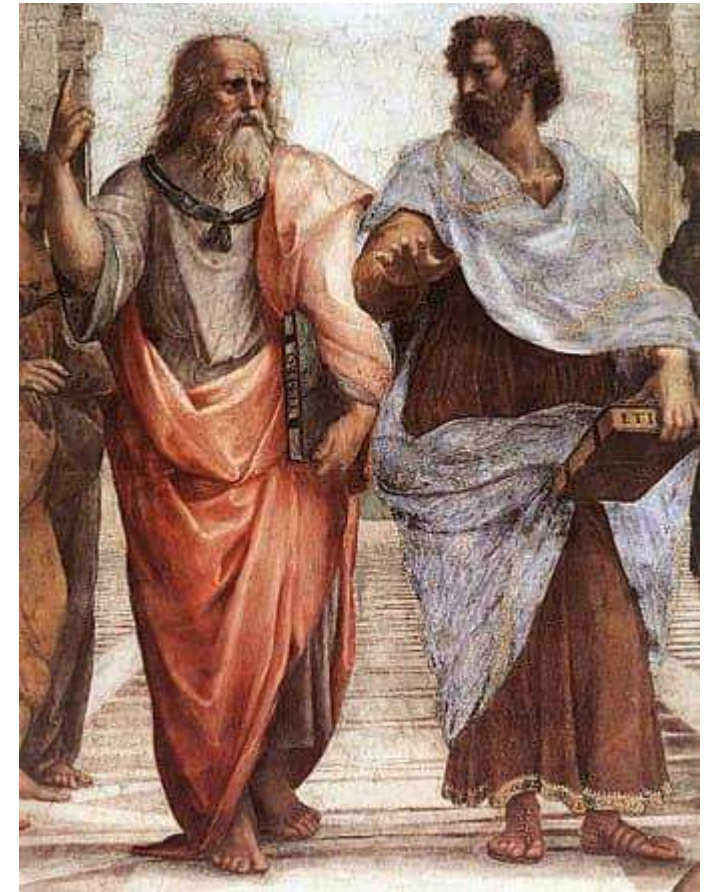
Applying “pro-life” has a very distinct flavor in Natural Law

Similar themes come up again and again in deciding the ethics of “pro-life,” most notably *Imago Dei* (image of God)

Defining and recognizing Human Dignity (*Imago Dei*) is always the key factor in determining pro-life ethics

Both sides, and even factions within each side, tend to be very myopic and ignore key scripture (*A La Carte* moral foundation)

Many “Christians” deny Natural Law altogether, claiming Divine Law is all that is needed



Morality and Ethics

Pro-Life and Natural Law Pt 2

Common “pro-life” themes for Natural Law that ought to be considered:

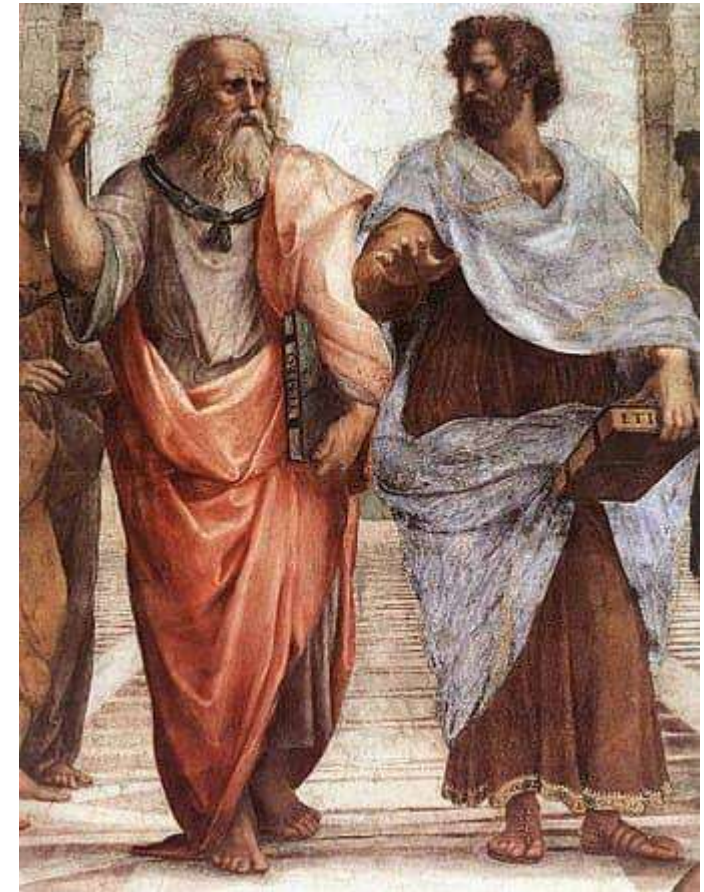
Prudence:

- Identify key causes of deviant behavior and seek solutions
- Promote self-improvement to those causing harm

Justice: EVERYONE has *Imago Dei*, including the victims and potential victims

Temperance: Life is complex, solutions will be complex even if the answer is simple

Fortitude: Any conclusion being made will bring you enemies, especially from among your friends (remember the Trolley Dilemma)



Morality and Ethics

Pro-Life and Natural Law Pt 3

Prudence:

- Refusing to look at alternative options
- Refusing to consider the likely results of their favorite option
- Refusing to effectively engage with “outsiders”

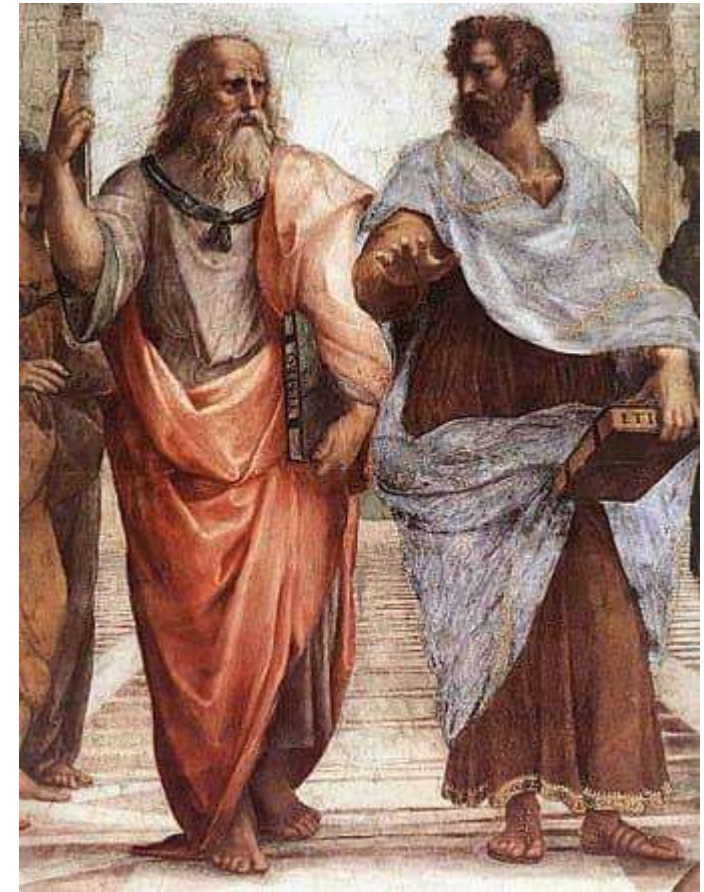
Justice:

- Being selective on who “human dignity” applies to
- Promoting “cherry picked” Bible verses in lieu of human dignity

Temperance:

- Attacking other groups that do not completely agree
- Adopting an “all or nothing” view on making changes

Fortitude: Finding excuses, many of them Biblical, to either not save lives, or to aggressively attack life saving measures



“Refuse no one the good on which he has a claim when it is in your power to do it for him.” (Proverbs 3:27)

Morality and Ethics

Pro-Life Ethical Situation - Abortion Pt 1

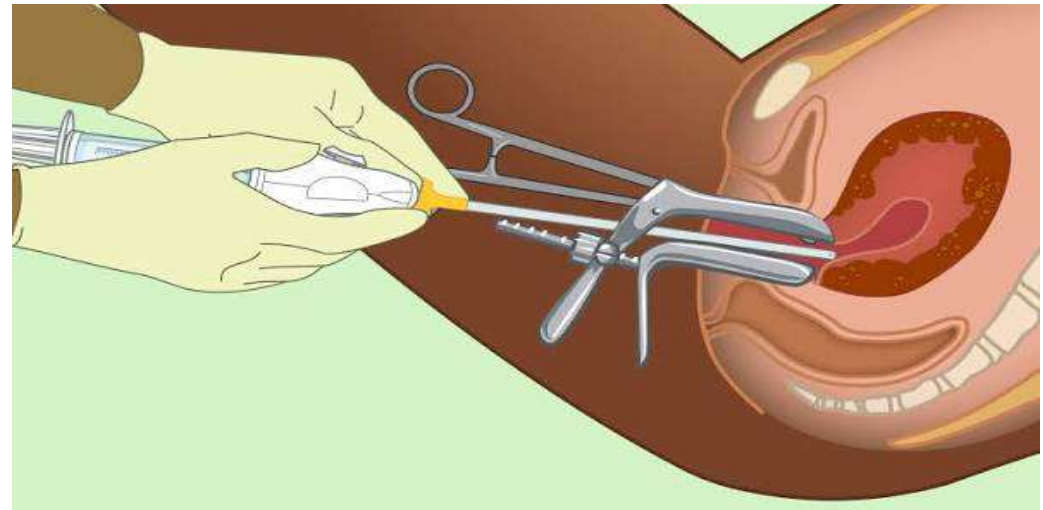
In simple terms, the argument against abortion should go as:

Justice: - Child and mother both have human dignity that is equal
- Killing of a person without just cause is the worst violation of human dignity

Prudence: There are times when either the mother or child must die for the other to live, and even times when the child will die no matter what happens to the mother

Temperance: If the killing of one can save the life of the other, especially if one was doomed regardless, then the killing should be a regretful but ethical solution

But nothing in pro-life is “simple”



Morality and Ethics

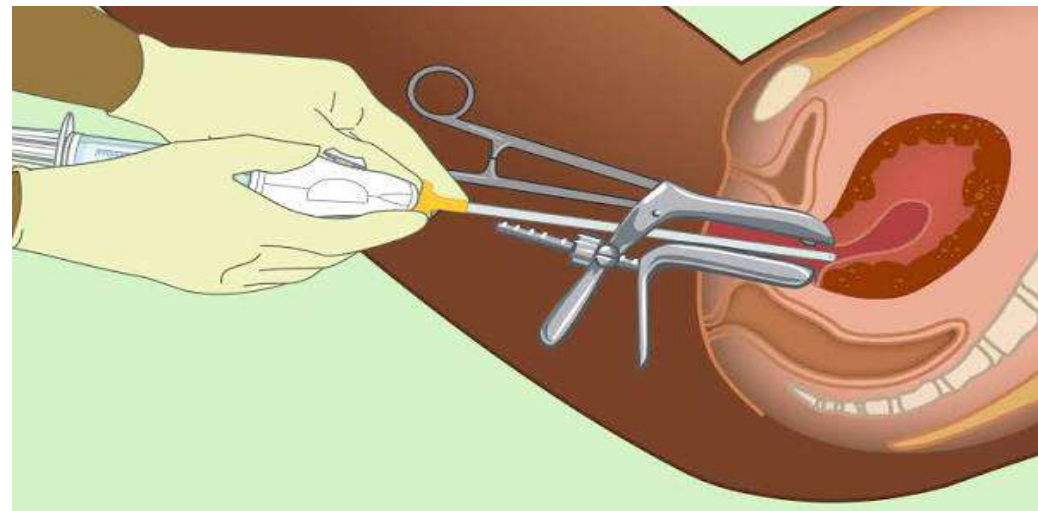
Pro-Life Ethical Situation - Abortion Pt 2

Prudence: Abortion is defined many different ways:

- a) the killing of a fetus for the sole purpose of ending the life of the fetus
- b) a medical procedure to remove a fetus from a woman
- c) a potentially life saving medical procedure for any given woman
- d) the removal of a fetus, even if already dead through injury or miscarriage, from a woman

Furthermore, “fetus” is almost exclusively understood by the “pro-choice” group as NOT being human. This is a **key** aspect to the debate, because if the fetus were not human, then Natural Law would be on the side of the pro-choicers.

But Divine Law is rather clear on the matter that God recognized people before birth. This is a prime example of how Divine Law is needed to keep Natural Law in place.



Morality and Ethics

Pro-Life Ethical Situation - Abortion Pt 3

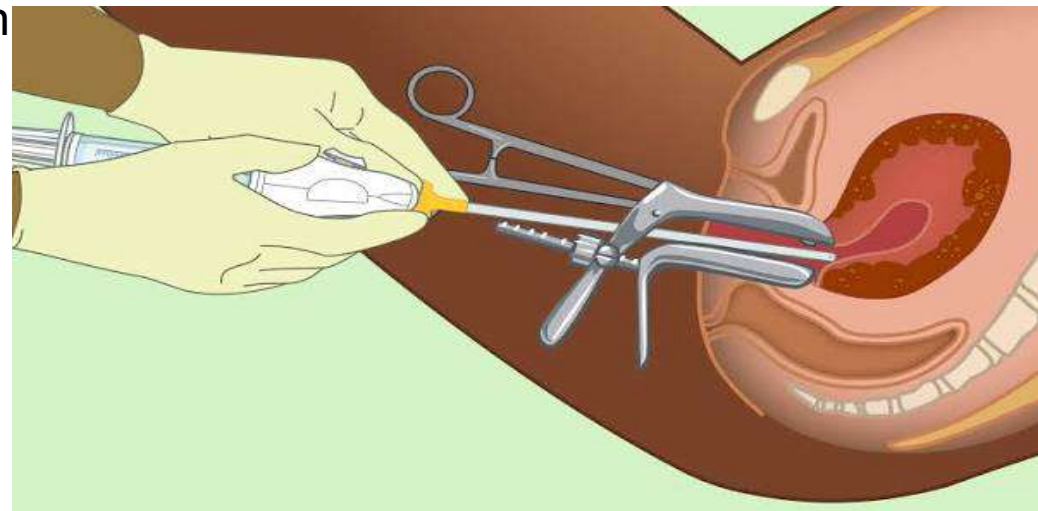
Reminder: abortion is defined many different ways:

- a) the killing of a fetus for the sole purpose of ending the life of the fetus
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Using Divine Law to augment Natural Law, definition “a” is unequivocally immoral and unethical, but more information is needed to determine the ethics of the other three.

Cases b, c and d are not necessarily immoral, as saving the life of a woman or removing an already dead child are ethical things to do, and all three could include such a scenario

At the same time, they are deceitful as they mask the reality of unjust killing of many, many more children done as a result



Morality and Ethics

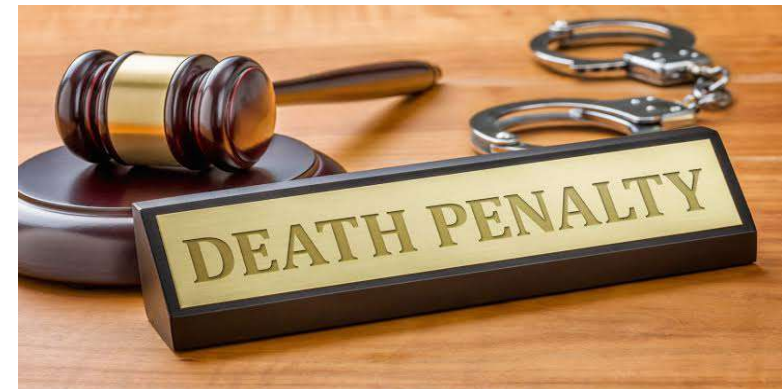
Pro-Life Ethical Situation - Death Penalty

Justice: -Every member of society has a dignity equal to that of the criminal
-A government has an obligation to ensure ALL its citizens are reasonably protected from being murdered
-There are those executed who were later exonerated (a)

Temperance: -Any punishment should be enough to ensure society is protected, yet in a way that is not excessive to the criminal
-Law already identifies different degrees of illegal killing, and the death penalty should be for the worst of the worst (b)

Prudence: -Fear of consequences is a deterrent to crime
-One should rationally address the effectiveness of any deterrent
--Does execution significantly improve the deterrent? (c)

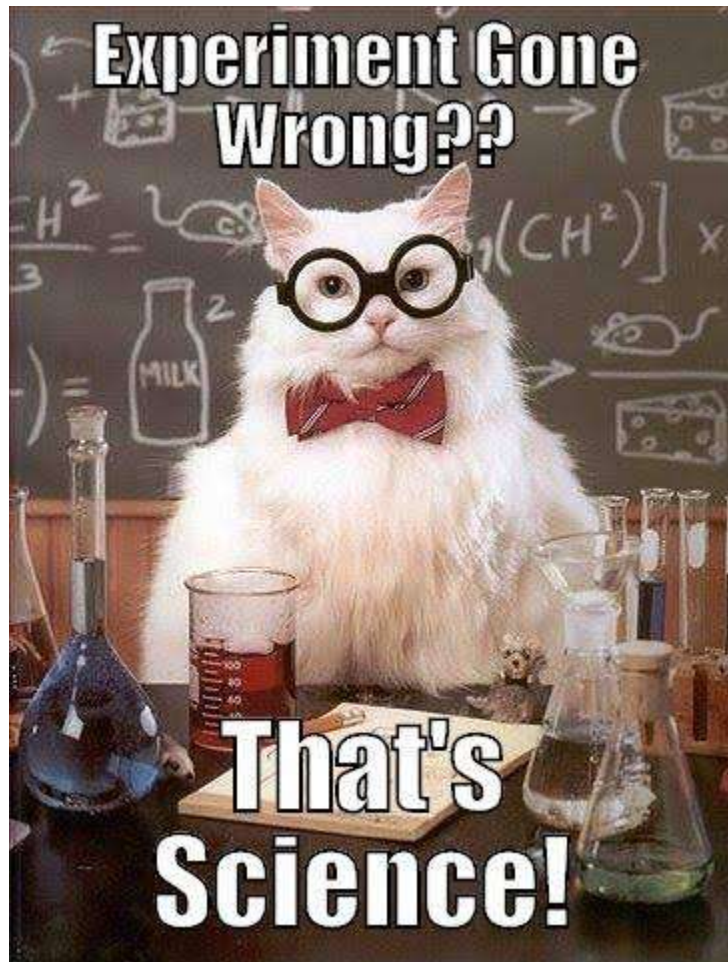
Conclusion: Whether or not a society should allow capital punishment should be dependent on the integrity of its judicial courts (a), limiting it to the worst of its worst offenders (b), and if society believes that only an execution will provide sufficient protection to its people (c)



Morality and Ethics

Pro-Life Ethical Situation - Genetics

Pt 1



This will include such diverse issues including aborted fetal research, testing embryos for gender and other attributes, IVF/IVG, cloning, eugenics and transhumanism

Most non-christians are delighted to live in a society framed by Christian morals, yet refuse to accept the discipline required to maintain such a society. **This is especially horrifying with genetics.**

Without the Jewish/Christian concept of *Imago Dei*, the one and only control society has over the rash development of genetic research is a fear of the horrifying mistakes science inevitably makes in its discovery process. **But man has never been afraid of making scientific mistakes.**

Morality and Ethics

Pro-Life Ethical Situation - Genetics

Pt 2

The key to the genetics issue is, whose image are we made from?

- Without interference from science, our image is that of God (*Imago Dei*)
- In the physical sense, our image is defined by our DNA
- By using science to control reproduction, our offspring will retain *Imago Dei*, but now God is asking our permission instead of giving us guidance
- By manipulating DNA, offspring will no longer be in the image of God, but of man (*Imago Homo*), at least physically

From here, how does human dignity factor into our morals?

- If God is no longer in charge of our creation, then who is in charge of our lives?
- Will those who are *Imago Homo* be considered to have human dignity?



Morality and Ethics

Pro-Life Ethical Situation - Genetics

Pt 3

Human dignity demands respect for the human being

There are many challenges to the ethical use of genetics

Justice: *Imago Dei* includes the body, therefore a body is not a commodity

Prudence: - Genetics is a high dollar venture, the incentive honor human dignity is severely challenged
 - Will *Imago Homo* be equal to *Imago Dei*?

Temperance: -How does one decide when the benefits of genetics outweigh the infringement of human dignity?
 -Will *Imago Homo* be absolute in its dignity, or be gradated?



Morality and Ethics

Pro-Life Ethical Situation - Genetics

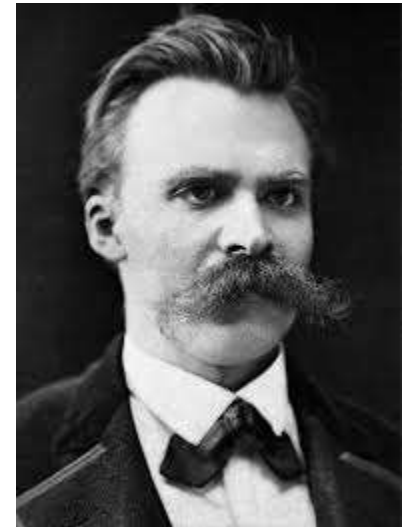
Pt 4

Conclusions:

Genetics reduces God to a metaphorical “retail salesman” at best, and an obsolete concept at worst

Without God, the best moral system man has ever known must go away as well, and something man-made will replace it

The debate for or against genetics is a debate for or against Jehovah, and losing that fight can only result in one possible outcome



"God is dead. God remains dead. And we have killed him. How shall we, the murderers of all murderers, comfort ourselves? What was holiest and most powerful of all the world has yet owned has bled to death under our knives. Who will wipe this blood off us? What water is there for us to clean ourselves? What festivals of atonement, what sacred games shall we have to invent? Is not the greatness of this deed too great for us? Must not we ourselves become gods simply to appear worthy of it?" Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Gay Science*

Morality and Ethics

Pro-Life Ethical Situation - Natural Family Planning

Prudence:

- Sexual intercourse is pleasurable
- Sexual intercourse often times leads to pregnancy
- Progeny is essential for humanity to survive as a species

Justice:

- Children deserve a healthy, stable family
- Sexual intercourse ONLY for pleasure harms the dignity of the partner
- Sexual intercourse ONLY for procreation harms the dignity of the partner
- Arbitrarily limiting children harms the dignity of society as a whole
- *Imago Dei* means God has a say in how many children are created

Temperance:

- The number of children in a family should be limited to the emotional, physical, economic and spiritual means of the parents

Conclusion: Natural Family Planning, between married couples who have non-selfish reasons to limit their children, is the only ethical means of birth control



Morality and Ethics

Pro-Life Ethical Situation - Ethics of Death

Pt 1

This will address Assisted Suicide, Organ Harvesting, Euthanasia and “Mercy Killing”

This issue is very much like that of Genetics

- Is not about what is being done, but under what, if any, circumstances is it ethical
- Is commonly promoted by giving extreme examples to justify it
- Is commonly practiced by making as much money as possible

While the majority of pro-lifers are quite justified in opposing the current culture's Ethics of Death, we must be careful about the results of the ethics we propose:

- Allowing needless suffering
- Reducing humanity to “Brains in Jars”
- Relying on genetics, especially if it replaces *Imago Dei* with *Imago Homo*

I believe the Golden Rule will be critical in any counter-culture effort



Morality and Ethics

Pro-Life Ethical Situation - Ethics of Death

Pt 2

Prudence: What is death?

- The removal of the soul from the body?
- When someone is permanently incapable of participating in lifetime activities?
- When one breaths his last?
- When a wound incompatible with life occurs?
- When the brain stops functioning?
- When widespread and irrevocable decomposing takes place?
- Any other possible standard?



Morality and Ethics

Pro-Life Ethical Situation - Ethics of Death

Pt 3

Justice: - Because of Original Sin, everyone must die
-- Do those *Imago Homo* have Original Sin?
- Should someone be kept alive simply because science can keep them alive?
- Who is to bear the financial responsibility of keeping someone alive?
- Is one capable of conversion after death?

Temperance: - At what point are we challenging God's authority on death?
- At what point are we challenging God's authority on life?
- What, if any, role does suffering and pain play in drawing the line?
- Is suffering on Earth better or worse than in Purgatory?

Conclusion: While many questions need to be answered, the question we most need an answer to is, “are we keeping someone alive simply because science allows us to do so, or because human dignity demands it?”



Morality and Ethics Questions?

