

**Morality
and
The Problem of Evil**


Moral Argument

- If God does not exist, objective moral values and duties do not exist.
- Objective moral values and duties do exist.
- Therefore, God exists.

Moral Values and Duties


Moral Value refers to the worth of a person or action, whether it is good or bad.

Moral Duty refers to our obligation to act in a certain way, whether that action is right or wrong.



Objective Truth vs. Subjective Truth

- A subjective truth is made true by someone's opinion.
- An objective truth is true independent of human opinion.



Objective Truth vs. Subjective Truth

- A subjective truth is rooted in the subject (the person who is making the claim).
- An objective truth is rooted in the object about which the claim is made.

Example of Subjective Truth

“I believe that chocolate is the best flavor of ice cream.”

Example of Objective Truth

$$2+2=4$$

We are not saying that people can't be good without knowing God.

We are saying that people can't be good if there is no God.



“My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line.”



C.S. Lewis

Euthyphro Dilemma

Is something good because God wills it?

Or does God will something because it is good?

If you say that something is good because God wills it, then what is good becomes arbitrary.

-God could have willed that torture be good.

But if you say that God wills something because it is good, then what is good or bad is independent of God.

-So, what need then for God as the basis for morality?

Answer to Euthyphro

- **It is a false dilemma. There is a third alternative, namely, God wills something because He is good.**
- **God's own nature is the standard of goodness, and His commands are the expression of His nature.**
- **It would be contrary to God's nature to make commands that would harm the creation that He loves.**

Moral Relativism:

The belief that moral truths are subjective.



What to ask someone who claims to believe in moral relativism:

**If someone stole from you, or slandered you,
what would your reaction be?**

**Would you simply dismiss it as a difference of
opinion regarding moral values, or would
you feel that you've been wronged?**

It is not possible for moral truths to be subjective.

Why?

- Subjective morality requires a person to measure the moral value of something.**
- If a transcendent moral standard did not exist, the concept of moral value could not exist.**
- This means that either objective morality exists, or no morality exists.**
- Conclusion: Morality exists. Therefore, objective morality exists.**

**Typical accusation from a
Moral Relativist:**

**“You have no right to impose your
morals on me?”**

Response:

“Then why are you imposing your morals on me?”



Humanist View of Morality

- **The belief that moral duties are determined by what promotes human flourishing.**



Problem #1:

- **If morality is grounded in cultural consensus, then moral reform is not possible.**



Problem #2:

- **If moral truths come from the majority consensus, then people who hold a minority position are, by definition, immoral.**
- **If this is true, Dietrich Bonhoeffer was immoral.**

Common Accusation against Christians:

**“You only hold a certain view
on morality because that’s
what you were taught.”**

Example of the Genetic Fallacy:

When someone judges a claim based solely on its origin, rather on the actual merits of the claim.

The Problem of Evil



Problem of Evil:

- **If an all-powerful, all-loving God existed, evil would not exist.**
- **Evil does exist.**
- **Therefore, God does not exist**
 - **This argument attempts to prove that it is not logically possible for God to exist.**



Solution to the logical problem:

- **Claim:** If an all-powerful, all-loving God existed, evil would not exist.
- **Response:** Evil does exist, and God has a good reason for allowing it to exist.
- **Therefore, the existence of evil does not disprove God's existence.**

- **The atheist perspective is that this life is the only life.**
- **Christians have a different perspective. This life is just a small fraction of time, relative to eternity.**

The Christian perspective is an *eternal perspective*.

- **God's purpose for our lives is not to keep us from pain.**
- **His purpose for our lives is that we live in relationship with Him. (So that He can be glorified through our lives.)**

The Christian perspective is an *eternal perspective*.

“Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

--2 Corinthians 4:16-18

**“The LORD is near to the brokenhearted
And saves those who are crushed in spirit.”**

—Psalm 34:18

**Why would God
allow Evil?**

Why would God allow evil?

- **In order to love God, we must possess the freedom to give that love.**
- **Without free-will, we would be like pre-programmed robots. We wouldn't really be able to love.**
- **Free-will requires the ability to choose between an act of good (loving God) and an act of evil (rebellious against God).**

God is going to deal with evil.

“And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

--Revelation 20:10

God is going to deal with evil.

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, ⁴ and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”

--Revelation 21:1-4