

Ch. 1: Three Ways Philosophy Has Value

1. Good of the mind
2. Keep alive speculative interest
3. Breaks us of "dogmatism"

Ch. 1: Types of Thinking

Normative ethics: Thinking about what is right, good, or obligatory

Descriptive ethics: Describe or explain moral phenomena

Meta-ethics: Thinking about the meaning or use of good, bad, or obligatory

Ch. 1: Reasoning in Moral Matters

1. Decision must be made by facts & reason and not emotions
2. Do not base your decision by appealing to what others think.
 - a. They may be wrong
 - b. We must think for ourselves
3. Never do what is morally wrong
 - a. Ask "Is this right or wrong"? instead of selfish questions like "what will people think?"

Ch. 1: 3 Arguments for Making an Ethical Choice

1. We should never harm anyone
2. If one chooses to live in said state, then they are agreeing to obey its laws
3. One's society or "state" is basically one's parent and teacher and you're supposed to obey your parent's and teacher's

Ch. 2: Why Socrates Should NOT Escape

1. Harm no one (including self)
 - a. escaping would harm the state because it violates and disregards laws
2. Keep promises (agreements, contracts)
 - a. by choosing to live in said state you are agreeing to abide by their laws
3. Obey one's parents and teachers (laws, state)
 - a. one's society is basically your parent /teacher and you're supposed to obey your parents

Ch. 2 Why Crito Thinks Socrates Should Escape

1. It would be shameful for Socrates to leave his sons without a father
2. People would think Socrates' friends valued him less than the money it would take to arrange his escape
3. It would be unjust for Socrates to cooperate with his enemies' unjust plans to destroy him

Ch. 5: Moral Judgment vs. Personal Preference

1. A personal preference different from someone else's does not deny what the other person says
2. A difference in moral judgments will deny what the other person is saying
 - a. All wars are unjust and some wars are unjust (both statements cannot be true)

Ch 5. How Not To Make A Moral Choice

1. Simply thinking it does not make it so
 - a. moral judgments must be based on more than belief
 - b. two people might think they are both correct but they both can't be
2. Using opinion polls or a consensus
 - a. this merely will show what MOST people think (and moral judgments must be based on more than belief)
3. Appeal to a higher power (God)
 - a. We do not know if God exists
 - b. We are not sure what God thinks about moral questions (misinterpretation)
 - c. many new moral questions cannot be answered by the Bible because of historical changes
 - d. there is not an independent way of testing the truth or reason against belief

Ch. 7: What Does Cultural Relativism Say

1. Different societies have different moral codes
2. There is no objective standard
3. The moral code of our own society is not better than others
4. There is no "universal truth"
5. The moral code of a society determines what is right or wrong for that society
6. It is arrogant for us to judge other societies

Ch. 6: God and Morality

1. Why "murder is immoral because it destroys life"
 - a. God also created germs and viruses
 - b. God arranged for us to live but not for us to live forever
 - c. God provided us with the mental capacity to think
2. Are actions right because God says they are?
 - a. one statement does not make the other true
 - a. one should act morally not because of what God says

Ch. 7 What Can Be Learned from Cultural Relativism

1. Warns us about the danger of assuming that our moral code is the only one
2. To keep an open mind and be tolerant of other cultures

Ch. 7: The Cultural Differences Argument

1. What is the Cultural Differences Argument

- a. different cultures have different moral codes
- b. therefore, there is no objective "truth" in morality: morality is only a matter of opinion and opinions

2. Why is the Cultural Differences Argument incorrect

- a. the argument concerns what people believe and just because you believe something does not make it true: s

Ch. 7: Consequences of Taking CR Seriously

1. Cannot criticize the customs of other societies

- a. a society that practices slavery and is anti-Semitic cannot be judged wrong by us

2. We could decide whether actions are right or wrong just by consulting the standards of our society

- a. cannot criticize or change our own societies code

3. Moral progress is called into doubt

- a. changes to women's rights and discrimination would not be called progress because progress requires ch

Ch. 7: Common Values Cultures Have

1. Protective of infants

- a. group would eventually die out if infants aren't raised due to no replenishment of people

2. Honesty

- a. if every one lies how can a society ever communicate
- b. complex societies must favor truthfulness to thrive

3. There are some moral rules that all societies will have in common because they are necessary for society to exist



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