

TH604 - Dr. Louis A. Decaro
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Chapter 1 5-3-1

5 Quiz Questions:

- 1) What is one benefit of choosing the consequentialist approach to determining good moral character?
- 2) In ethical egoism from a Christian standpoint, what problems arise? (Hollinger, 31)
- 3) What is one benefit of choosing the principal approach to determining good moral character?
- 4) How does utilitarianism differ from ethical egoists?
- 5) What do the moral principles in the Bible ultimately reveal?

Answers:

- 1) Utilizing the consequentialist approach to determining good moral character can be good for setting realistic consequences to measurable outcomes based on a person's actions (29).
- 2) From a Christian standpoint an intrinsic focus on self is still observed (30), so actions may not be driven by the true embodiment of Christ-like behavior where Agape love is the driving force (31).
- 3) Utilizing the principle approach to determining good moral character can be good for preventing immoral acts; this approach challenges the person to consider why something should not be done in the first place, regardless of the possible consequence (36-37)
- 4) Utilitarians believe “moral good is rooted in consequences...but namely as it relates to the greatest number of people (31)”, whereas ethical egoists focus on mankind as a whole (30-31).
- 5) The moral principle in the Bible reveals God's will and makes it necessary to seek God's standard before making decisions or performing actions (41).

3 Terms:

- 1) Altruism: Selfless concern for the welfare of others
- 2) Consequentialist: One who believes that the standard of right and wrong is calculated by the end results (28).
- 3) Principalist: One who believes that moral actions are inherently right or inherently wrong (36).

1 Summary Paragraph:

The way one derives a method for deciding whether something is morally right or wrong depends on their ethical perspective. The two main methods are consequential ethics, where one determines that the end result of action should be the determining factor in morality, and has a basic “If no one is hurt then no wrong was done” attitude. Principle ethics believers argue that good moral character is achieved by just knowing what is right or wrong, and the actions carried out whether or not harm is caused should be the guiding factor in judgment. Both views have their foundational strengths and weaknesses, and care should be made to remember that neither can be utilized as the ultimate foundation in sustaining a moral life (44).