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Philosophy

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April 23, 2023

Philosophy: Understanding Logic and Faith

The Wager

Why People Should Believe According to Pascal

The wager provides a comprehensive case of why people should believe in God in the face of the uncertainty of His existence. According to Pascal (1910), the assertion is made that individuals who believe in God will benefit from everlasting existence. If an individual holds disbelief in the existence of a God, it is suggested that they might face severe consequences. Per Pascal's argument, it is more advantageous to have a belief due to the potential gains outweighing the possible disadvantages of disbelief. Pascal also argues that it is hard to conclude whether God exists. However, to be on the safer side, people should believe He lives to be on the safer side.

The Advice That Pascal Gives The Person Who Understands Wager And Does not Believe That God Exists

In the imagined conversation, Pascal urges the individual to behave as if they believe in God, even if they are uncertain of the existence of God. He recommends the individual join religious services, commune with God, and adhere to church doctrines as if they were genuine. Pascal (1910) claims that by doing so, an individual can develop faith in God by performing their gestures and encounters instead of relying solely on their rationale. In addition, he recommends the individual consider the advantages of having faith. Pascal concludes by advising the individual that if they opt not to maintain their faith in God, they risk being eternally condemned if God exists.

Concluding Unscientific Postscript

Why Kierkegaard Thinks That Proving or Disproving the Bible Is Not The Real Issue

When It Comes To Faith

According to Kierkegaard's perspective, faith does not entail the demonstration or negation of the Bible, as it is a subjective phenomenon that cannot be substantiated through objective methods. The author posits that faith is not an issue of factual knowledge but rather an outcome that involves personal perspectives and individual experience (Kierkegaard, 2019). Hence, reducing faith to a collection of objective statements that can be validated or invalidated is not feasible.

Kierkegaard's Distinction Between "Objectivity and Subjectivity" When It Comes To Living Life And Searching For Truth

Objectivity refers to the external world, the domain of facts and observable phenomena that can be substantiated through empirical evidence. Subjectivity, however, pertains to the internal realm of an individual, encompassing their thoughts, emotions, and personal encounters. Kierkegaard (2019) posits that it is imperative to approach situations from an emotional standpoint, to comprehensively comprehend an individual's subjective experience, employing empathy and personal introspection.

Some Of The Problems Kierkegaard Looks At When He Discusses Trying To Get To God Through Approximation And Objectivity

Challenges are associated with attempting to connect with God through approximation and objectivity. The author proposes that objective knowledge or approach towards God is unattainable, as God transcends the domain of empirical evidence and objective knowledge. The author asserts that striving to establish a connection with God through objective methods may

result in the worship of an idol, as the person may construct a distorted representation of God based on their interpretation. Kierkegaard (2019) proposes that subjective faith and personal experience are the sole means of genuinely approaching God.

Kierkegaard's Ultimate Definition of Truth for An Existing Individual

According to Kierkegaard's postulation, the ultimate definition is distinguished by a lack of objective certainty and instead marked by uncertainty. He asserts that the truthfulness of one's subjective experience cannot be objectively ascertained, necessitating a "leap of faith" for the individual to wholly recognize their truth.

References

Kierkegaard, S. (2019). *Concluding unscientific postscript*. Princeton University Press.

Pascal, B. (1910). The wager. *Philosophy of Religion*.