

Main categories of morality

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1. Good and Evil:

- Difficult to define the borders in-between;
- Many people do not recognize its existence;
- Many believe the good and evil are just our perceptions and evaluations;
- Many see both as the universal dimensions: one cannot exist without another one.

Main categories of morality

- Good and Evil
 - What is good?: fundamental question of ethics;
 - Honesty, virtues; pleasure – are all these Good?
 - Activities: “a good act”; “a good guy”, etc.
 - E. Moor: “A mistake of a complete mixture of qualities and objects”.

Main categories of morality

- Good and Evil: E. Moor:
 - Pure pleasures cannot be a good;
 - Sufferings cannot be just evil;
 - Kant and Plato justified “good” with super-naturalism (God, Gods) – that is naturalism;
 - Main aim is to seek for and find out what is “*to be good*”

Main categories of morality

- Good and Evil:
 - A human being cannot be “automatic” in doing good;
 - To Be Good is an *art*;
 - A. Rorthy: to have a *good will* is not enough *to be* good.
- Morality of a human is not coming from the aim. But has to have an internal source;

Good: main intellectual abilities for it (by Frank):

1. Imagination and open mind;
2. Openness towards new changes and innovations;
3. Ability to choose and cooperate;
4. Loyalty and objectivity;
5. Constructive attitude to conflict situations;
6. A “just” feeling;
7. Ability to “push” when needed and to abstain when needed.

Evil

- The same force as good (belief in God and Devil);
- Evil is an absence of good;
- Evil often comes from human, his freedom to act not in a good way.
- F. Dostoyevsky: ability to do evil – is a ‘depth’ of spirit of a human being, as well as committing good.
- J. Boudreares: “Transparency of Evil”;

Evil: religious and non-religious perceptions

- Huge history of literature and art:
 - “Faust”: Mephistopheles: “I am a part of evil, that always wants to harm, but acts for good” (Goethe).
 - ‘Master and Margarita’ of M. Bulgakov;
 - ‘Divine Comedy’ of Dante;
 - Pictures: Renaissance and modernity: the sources of evil being depicted;
 - N. Berdyaev: Ethics is composed from good and evil as a paradox.

Conscience

- It is an ability to critically evaluate his/her acts and judge them (if they violate) as improper and imperfection;
- F. Dostoyevsky, N. Berdyaev: it exists even inside the criminal;
- It is a reminder of a human nature and mission;
- It is a source of sufferings or even a suicide.