

PHILOSOPHY

"IS THAT WHICH IS RIGHT BECAUSE GOD COMMANDS IT?, OR DOES GOD COMMAND THAT WHICH IS RIGHT?"

This is something of which many of the religious may think almost every day. Am I being kind because it is God's command, or does God just know what is right himself? This is an ultimate question similar to: *"What is the meaning of life?"* or: *"Does this world have a purpose other than a habitat?"*. It digs deeply into the meaning of morals and how we interpret them. Are morals correct, or are they just commands? Did good morals originate from God's perspective, or does God just know what is right and what is wrong?

This question is often referred to as the "Euthyphro Dilemma", the dilemma word inferring that it is more than likely very confusing to think about, and has no correct answer. It originates from Plato's words in the book: Euthyphro, when he asked: *"Is the pious loved by the Gods because it is pious, or is it pious because the Gods love it?"*. This intrigued fellow philosophers to come up with the question above.

IS IT RIGHT BECAUSE GOD COMMANDS IT?

This view is more religious (in my opinion) than any others. It tries to describe that God is the origin of all good morals, and should be listened to due to this. It tries to describe that God is of pure innocence and right-mindedness, and that they are seen as the perfect role model for the human race. Any sane person feels positively towards good morals, and sees that having them has no negative effect on the surrounding people. Due to this, the religious see thus that good morals being instructions from God in the bible, are due to God's positive thinking towards humankind.

The different answers to this may seem different, but at the same time, they are both interconnected. So some people that feel strongly about one answer, may actually be supporting, partially, the other answer. As you can see, answering the question with the answer above could just suggest that what God is commanding is correct, but also that the correct morals are commanded by God because they are correct, and having God made these morals, he is commanding what is correct, and also because he is commanding it, it is right too.

DOES GOD COMMAND WHAT IS RIGHT?

This one tries to show God, not as the source of purity, but the conductor of it. Like the police, but way less forceful. God is described as looking at the light in the universe, and being as optimistic as possible to allow humans to be kind and loving towards each other, to make the world a much better place. This can imply that God is seen as the role model for a great leader and a brilliant teacher. This answer can tell us that even God had more to learn, like one of us, conducting morals and sharing them through the context of the biblical stories. This describes God like a father, as they may rightly be described, sharing knowledge with their children, or humankind.

Some people may disagree with this, because they like to view God as the source of all light and innocence in this universe, as perhaps the "perfect" entity. The one that made these rules to keep us as pure and kind as possible.

ARE GOOD MORALS A HUMAN INVENTION?

Atheists and/or non-believers may say that morals are just a human ideology, made to keep the world a better place. Some people believe that someone thought: if everyone was taught the correct way to exist and treat people, that would make everyone so much happier to live, and slightly less scared of being around other people and badly treated. Others thought that people decided to be decent, and learn from any mistakes that are made. They think that morals did not originate from religion, and just came from people being generally normal to each other.

WHAT IS THE CORRECT ANSWER?

To conclude this text, the answer is still undefined. We will probably never know whether God made or taught morals, or if they were just made by people deciding to be nice to each other, and just writing it down in the holy book that it was an instruction from God to be kind and forgiving. It is, as I say again, an ultimate question, that will more than likely never have a proven answer, like *“Does God actually exist?”* or *“Where is God hiding?”*. I expect that philosophers will continue to struggle over this question, for almost their entire lives. They will dedicate their lives to brilliant questions like this, striving for knowledge; it is human instinct to do so. Or is it actually God?