

We use the concepts of good and bad to categorize everything we do into two sections, what is acceptable and what isn't. Everyone has their own opinion of what is right and what is wrong, but where should we draw the line? Is every action good if our intentions are? Are right and wrong two definitive sections, or is it more of a spectrum? Are the parameters for bad actions absolute, can a bad action be good if the circumstances are right? Who has the authority to decide what is right and wrong? In this essay, I am going to explore the true meaning of right and wrong. I am going to evaluate whether in this complicated modern-day of freedom and choice an action can be fairly categorized as good or bad.

I propose to you this question, are bad actions absolute, are bad actions always bad, or can they be good in specific circumstances? The trolley dilemma explores this perfectly. Would you kill a human being? The answer is hopefully no, you wouldn't. The basic theory behind the trolley dilemma is this, but what if killing that one person meant saving three? Does saving three people make murder acceptable? If so, then does this mean violence can be acceptable? What if the one person you could kill was a member of your family, would you kill someone close to you to save three random people? Does the greater good influence your decision, or in the end do you value the life of one of your family members more than the lives of three random people, would you let three random people die? Can violence ever be justified? Can a bad action ever be good?

Who gets to decide what is right and wrong? Are the basic rules of what is acceptable and what is not a smorgasbord of ideals and experiences collected by man over thousands of years of evolution, change and civilization? Or is the very basis of what we believe is right and wrong decided by a higher or divine power? If a higher power did decide this then do these rules still apply today, can we still follow the basis of what is right and wrong from our gods, even though they were written thousands of years ago. Are these rules still fair? Or maybe what is good and bad is simply decided by natural instinct, maybe what is acceptable and what is not, is imbued into the genetic code of man. If this is the case then why do we all have different opinions on it, at the end of the day we are all humans, yet everyone has a different opinion on what is right and wrong.

Can a person be defined as good or bad? Is a person good the second they compliment a friend, or hold a door for a teacher, is a person bad the second they say a swear word or insult someone? Can you do a 'good' action and still be bad or a 'bad' action and still be good? If you are driving to the hospital in a hurry because a member of your family has suddenly fallen ill, and you are fined for speeding, does that minor crime make you a bad person, or because the circumstances are fair and just, does it not? If so then does this make any crime acceptable if your intentions and the circumstances are right? A person cannot be described as good or bad, we have all done good things and bad things. We have all done things we are proud of, and things we regret. We cannot fairly judge a person's life, a person's soul and say they are good or bad just from a glance, a chat, a headline, no matter what it says or explains, we almost never know the full picture, a person can't just be good or just be bad.

So to conclude, what is right and wrong, what is good and bad? Right and wrong, good and bad are a spectrum, a long line that every action fits onto, some actions are further down than others, some are further up. We as people are constantly changing our minds on what we think is right and wrong, what we feel is acceptable and what we feel is not. Just because

an action is low down on the line it is not definitively bad, and the same goes for good. Don't misunderstand me, this is not a spectrum that we as human beings are on, because we all have the freedom to make our own choices and decisions, our own lives. We have the freedom to say and do what we want, and because of this, we can never be completely, truly defined, as good or bad.