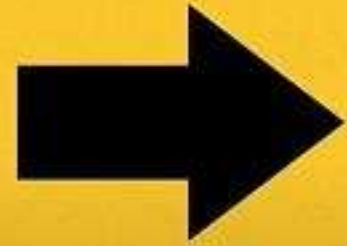


RIGHT



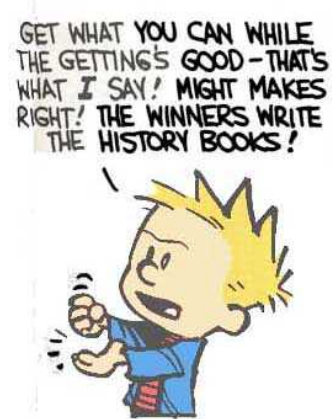
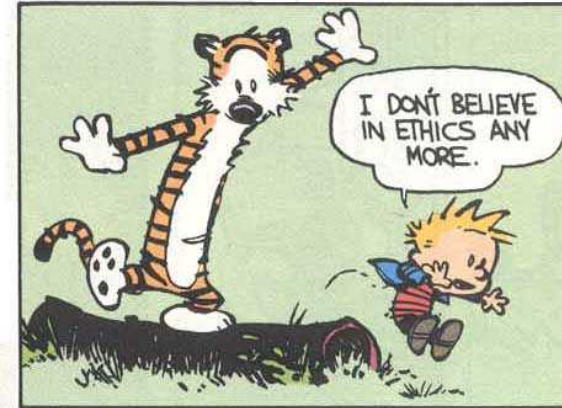
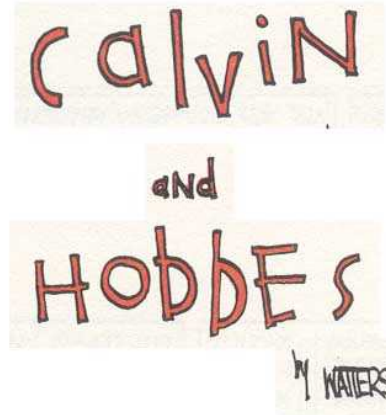
Ethics and the Christian

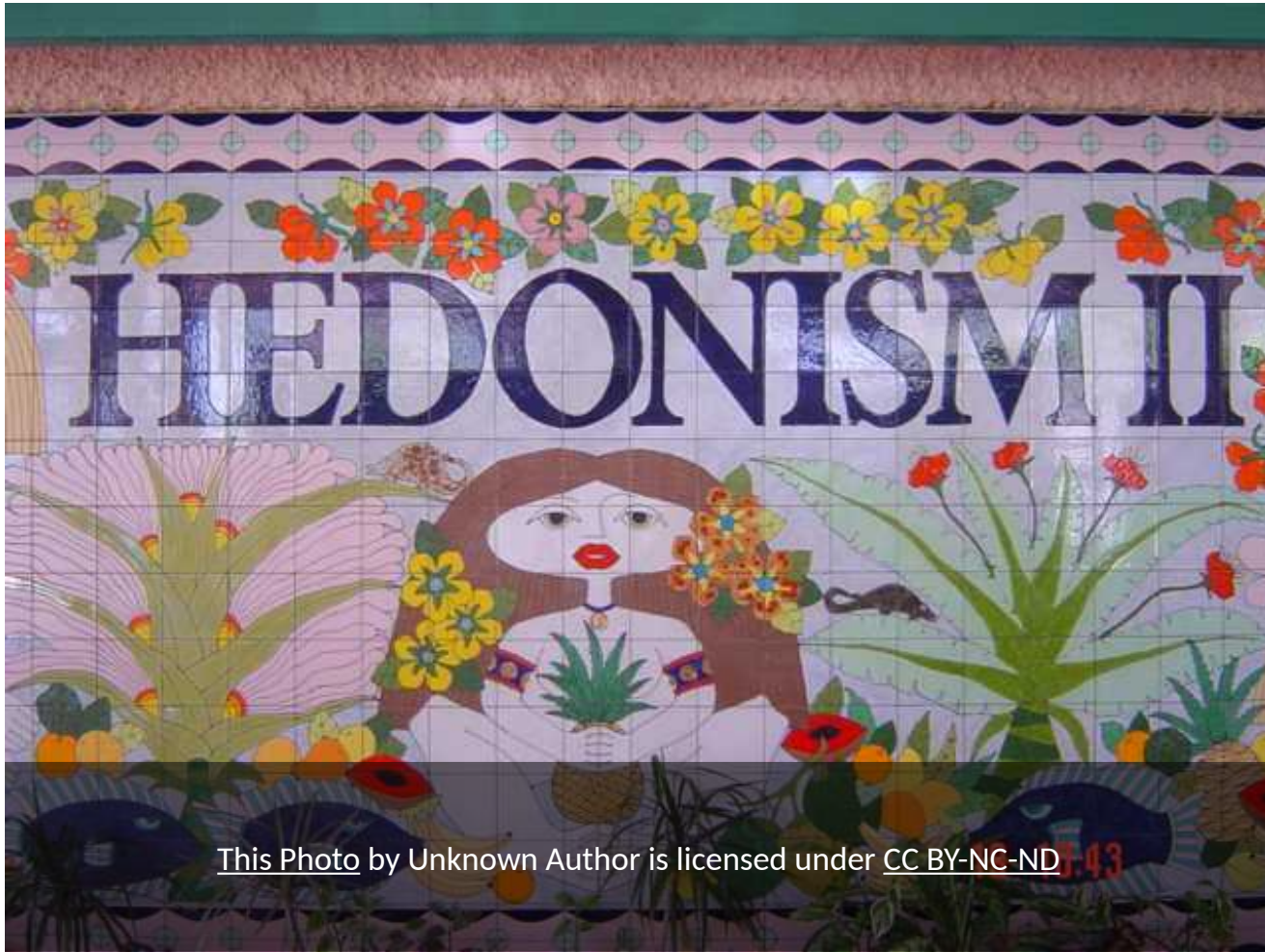
How do you know what is right?



WRONG

The Ends Justify the Means





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If It Feels Good,
Do It.



Just Do It.

Gary Gilmore:

About to be executed for two murders: "Let's do it."

Nancy Reagan:

To potential drug users: "Just say no!"

Corruption Around the World

- At least one in every two people in India have paid a bribe in the past year, according to a new national corruption report, which branded the practice “part and parcel of daily life.”
- The survey, conducted by independent anti-corruption advocates Transparency International India (TII) and social media platform LocalCircles, found that bribery had actually reduced by 10% over the past year. But it remains rampant, with 51% of respondents admitting they had paid bribes.
- Corruption remains “part and parcel of daily life in India,” said [a press release from TII](https://www.cnn.com/2019/11/27/asia/india-corruption-bribe-intl-hnk-scli/index.html). It’s particularly widespread in local-level citizen services, which are “ridden with bribery and kickbacks.”

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/11/27/asia/india-corruption-bribe-intl-hnk-scli/index.html>





Bribery is Global

- Around the world, nearly 1 in 4 said they had paid a bribe when accessing public services in the last 12 months.
 - Transparency International
- When asked the question, “Is it ethical?”, most would say in their country it doesn’t matter. Bribery is necessary for normal life.

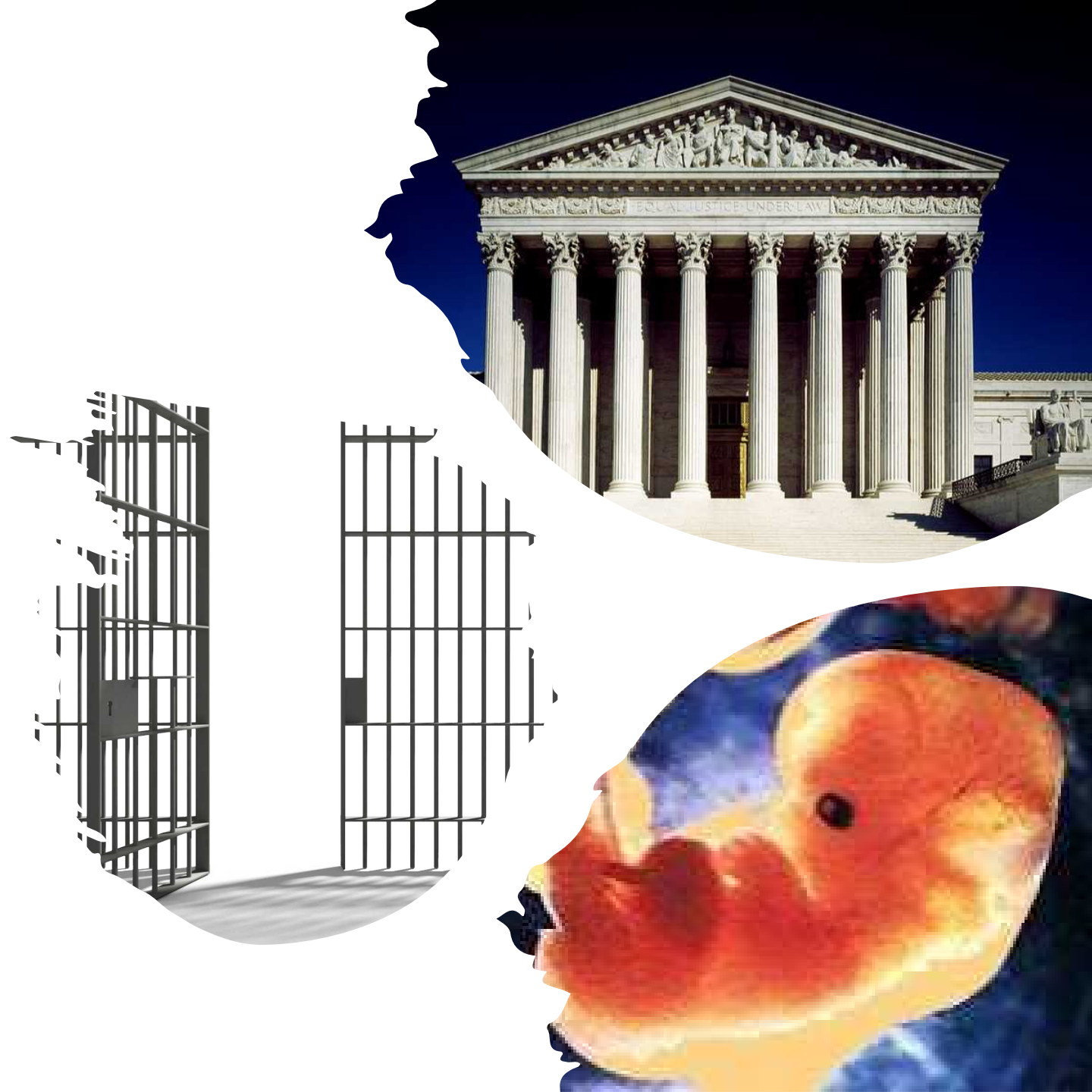
Is Abortion Ethical?

- An aborted fetus lived for 23 days at the prestigious Johns Hopkins University Hospital. Since it was unwanted it was considered unborn and so it was permitted to starve to death.
- What kind of ethics permit this to happen?



Justice

- The Supreme Court makes decisions and no one seems to ask, Is it ethical? The Supreme Court is now making a decision about Texas's heartbeat law. Perhaps this group of justices will ask that fundamental question. Is it ethical?
- Today we free murderers on technicalities while all the innocent people often live in their homes under lock and key.
- In San Francisco, murderers, rapists, thieves are released. No technicality needed.
- The daily ritual of the prison guard today is carried out not so much in prisons as in homes where we lock ourselves in each night while prisoners are sent home free.



God is concerned about our ethics

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.

Isaiah 5:20





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Definitions of Ethics

- The discipline dealing with what is good and bad and with moral duty and obligation

Merriam-Webster.com

- The [discipline](#) concerned with what is morally good and bad and morally right and wrong. The term is also applied to any system or theory of [moral](#) values or principles.

Britannica.com

- At its simplest, ethics is a system of moral principles. They affect how people make decisions and lead their lives. Ethics is concerned with what is good for individuals and society and is also described as moral philosophy.

BBC.co.uk

- A system of moral principles

Dictionary.com



Is it Ethical?

- The phrase “Is it ethical?” only has meaning if everyone in a society shares the same rules of right and wrong.
- Every TV program, every newscast, every magazine, every novel, every textbook, every motion picture is based on some ethical presupposition derived from a wide variety of systems.
- The narrative is more important to many journalists than the facts.



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Holiness in an Unholy World – D. James Kennedy

- Have you ever noticed how many people claim to “believe in God,” but on closer inspection, the “god” they believe in is merely one made up in the factory of the human mind? And rarely, it seems, does that god have any standards of holiness. I recall once sharing the Gospel with a woman, and when I began talking about God’s judgment, she stopped me and said, “Oh, no. My God would never do a thing like that.” I said, “Madam, you are absolutely correct. Your god would never bring anyone into judgment. The fact of the matter is, your god would never do anything at all. He doesn’t exist anywhere other than in the fantasies of your own mind. However, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the God of the Scriptures, has declared explicitly what He will do; He will judge every evil thought and way.” I’m afraid that many today are guilty of the same idolatry, diminishing or eliminating God’s holiness, and that leads to an “anything goes” attitude.
- As people have created their own images of God, our society has endured a moral decline... Our educators and courts have forgotten George Washington’s warning in his farewell address— that we should not be so naive as to suppose that we can maintain morality in the absence of religion. All history and experience forbid us to indulge in such a vain supposition, he said. But we have been just that naive, and now having sown the wind, we reap the whirlwind.
- Yes, we live in a largely immoral world. But like the white lily blossoming on a dung heap, so God calls us to purity in the midst of an impure world. The Bible tells us that God wants us to be holy, even as the Lord is holy.

“Growing in holiness is like riding a bike. If you stop pedaling, you fall off.”

—Rob Warner

Barna Survey on Biblical Worldview

“If Jesus were to ask, “Who do you say I am,” the question He famously asked his disciple Peter, He would be disappointed by some of the answers He’d receive from contemporary Americans. A new nationwide survey conducted by The Barna Group among a representative sample of adults explored how many have what might be considered a ‘biblical worldview.’”

<https://www.barna.com/research/barna-survey-examines-changes-in-worldview-among-christians-over-the-past-13-years/>

Barna Survey Questions

Defining Terms - For the purposes of the survey, a “biblical worldview” was defined as

1. believing that absolute moral truth exists;
2. the Bible is totally accurate in all of the principles it teaches;
3. Satan is considered to be a real being or force, not merely symbolic;
4. a person cannot earn their way into Heaven by trying to be good or do good works;
5. Jesus Christ lived a sinless life on earth;
6. God is the all-knowing, all-powerful creator of the world who still rules the universe today.

➤ Anyone who held all of these beliefs was said to have a biblical worldview.

<https://www.barna.com/research/barna-survey-examines-changes-in-worldview-among-christians-over-the-past-13-years/>



Only 6% of Americans Have a Biblical Worldview

- Faithwire noted that while 51% of the 1,000 respondents polled stated they believe in a biblical worldview, the current research found that just roughly 6% genuinely do.
- They found that there are significant contradictions between what people think and what the Bible teaches among the 51 % of individuals who profess to have a biblical worldview.
- Our worldview is the basis for our ethics: our sense of right and wrong is a result of what we believe.

<https://www.christianitydaily.com>

Ethics and Eschatology

- The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.
- But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— having a form of godliness but denying its power.

1 Timothy 4:1-2

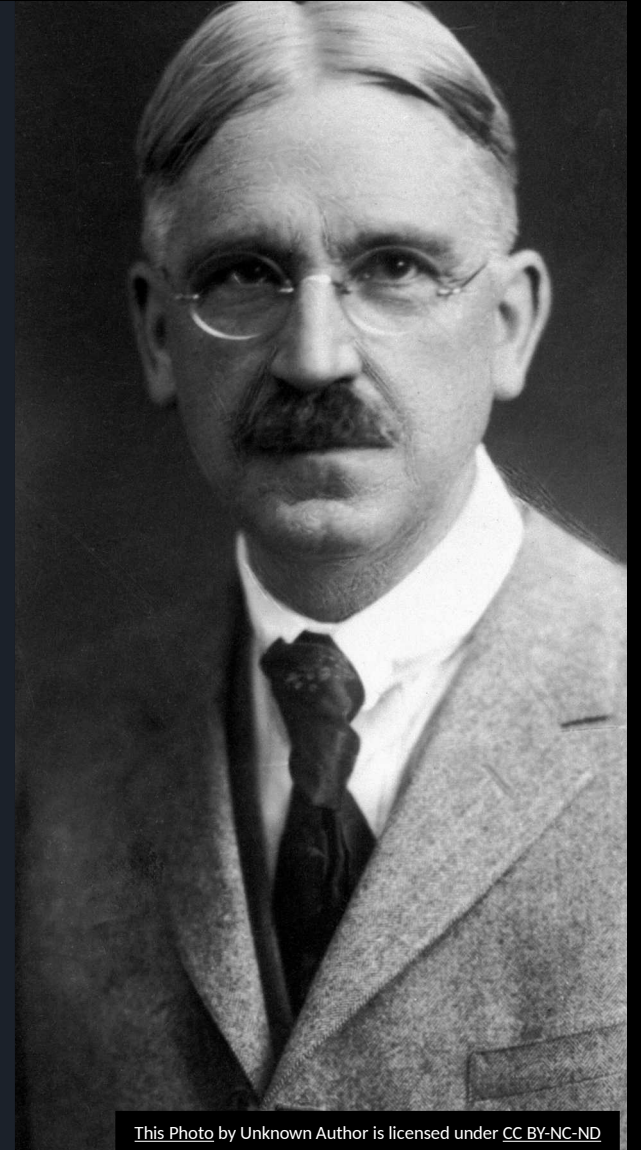
2 Timothy 3:1-2



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Virginia Election

- For example, public school systems, shaped by the philosophies of John Dewey have a very different ethic than the one room schoolhouse is shaped by the Bible. He subscribed to a very definite type of ethical system. Most teachers are unaware of what his system is, yet it is ingrained in their very method of teaching and it is not Christian.
- Glenn Youngkin was elected yesterday as governor of Virginia. It's all about competing systems of ethics. There is nothing like an attack on your children to clarify your ethics.
- The Loudon County turmoil



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Ethical Systems Have Two Great Divisions



Revelational Standards

- Theonomous (God Law)
- Standards given by God (e.g. – God gave ten commandments)
- “Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee.”

King David



Speculative Standards

- Autonomous (Self Law)
- The result of rational thinking, inherited mores, practical choices, experience, etc.
- College courses generally focus on speculative ethics

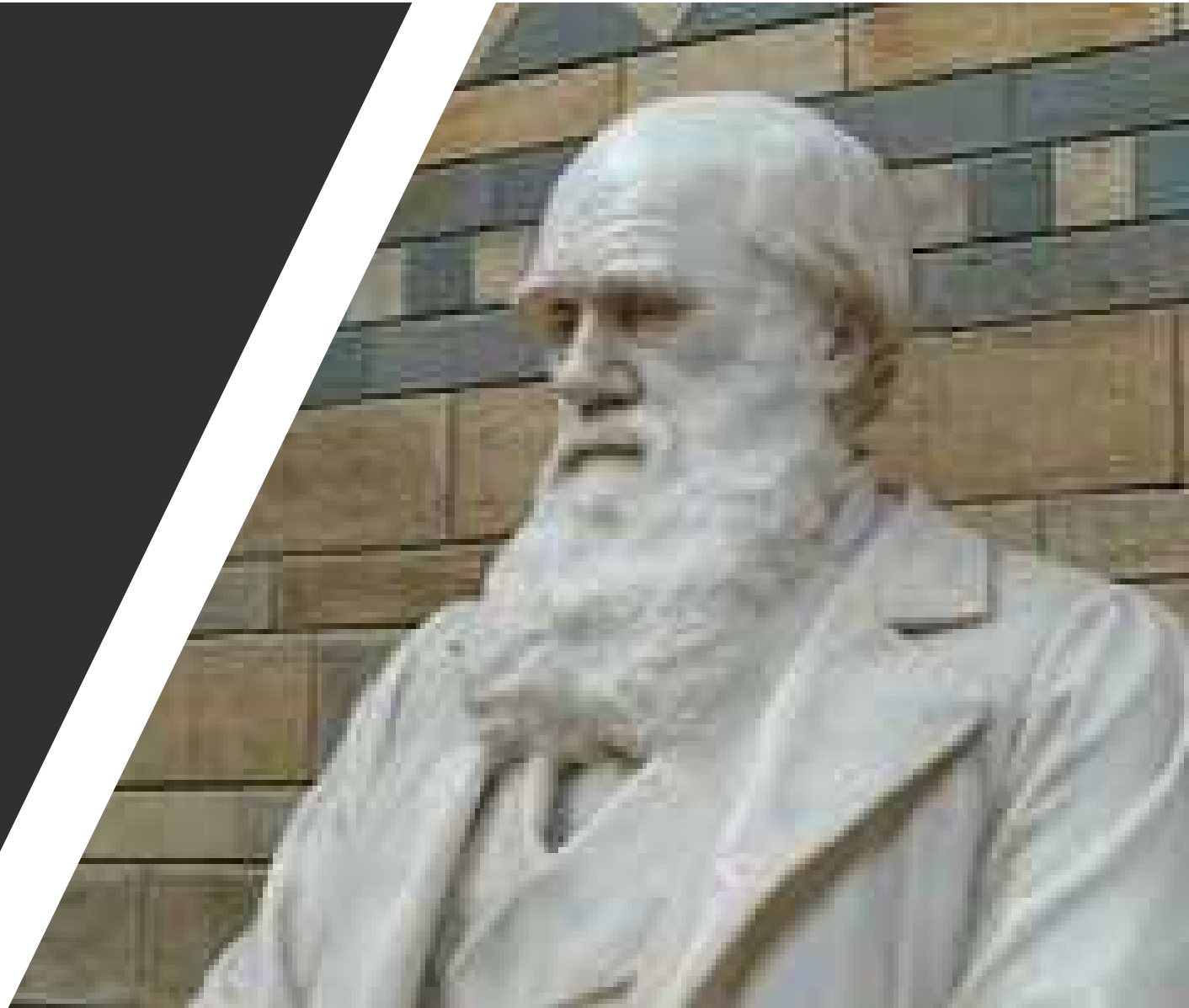




Divisions of Speculative Ethics

Naturalism

- Man is just matter, a complex animal to be sure
- Right and wrong is determined by physical well being of any man or group.
- Darwin was a naturalist.



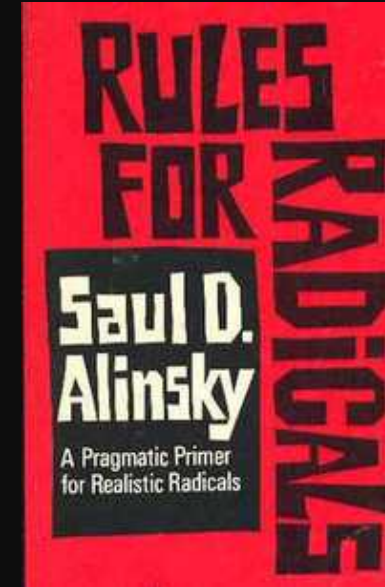
Idealism

- The only thing that is real is immaterial – i.e. the spirit
- Spiritual reality, Mental reality
- Plato was an idealist.
- Hinduism is idealistic.



Pragmatism

- If something works or has positive results, it is good.
 - A company that grows massively must be good.
 - The pickpocket had a guilty conscience when he passed up an easy mark.
- John Dewey was a pragmatist.
 - His emphasis was to study and train in the ways of doing things without regard for the result. Educate students to question everything and to experiment.
- Christian pragmatism.
 - The church growth movement. Giving and attendance have increased, therefore, what we are doing is right.

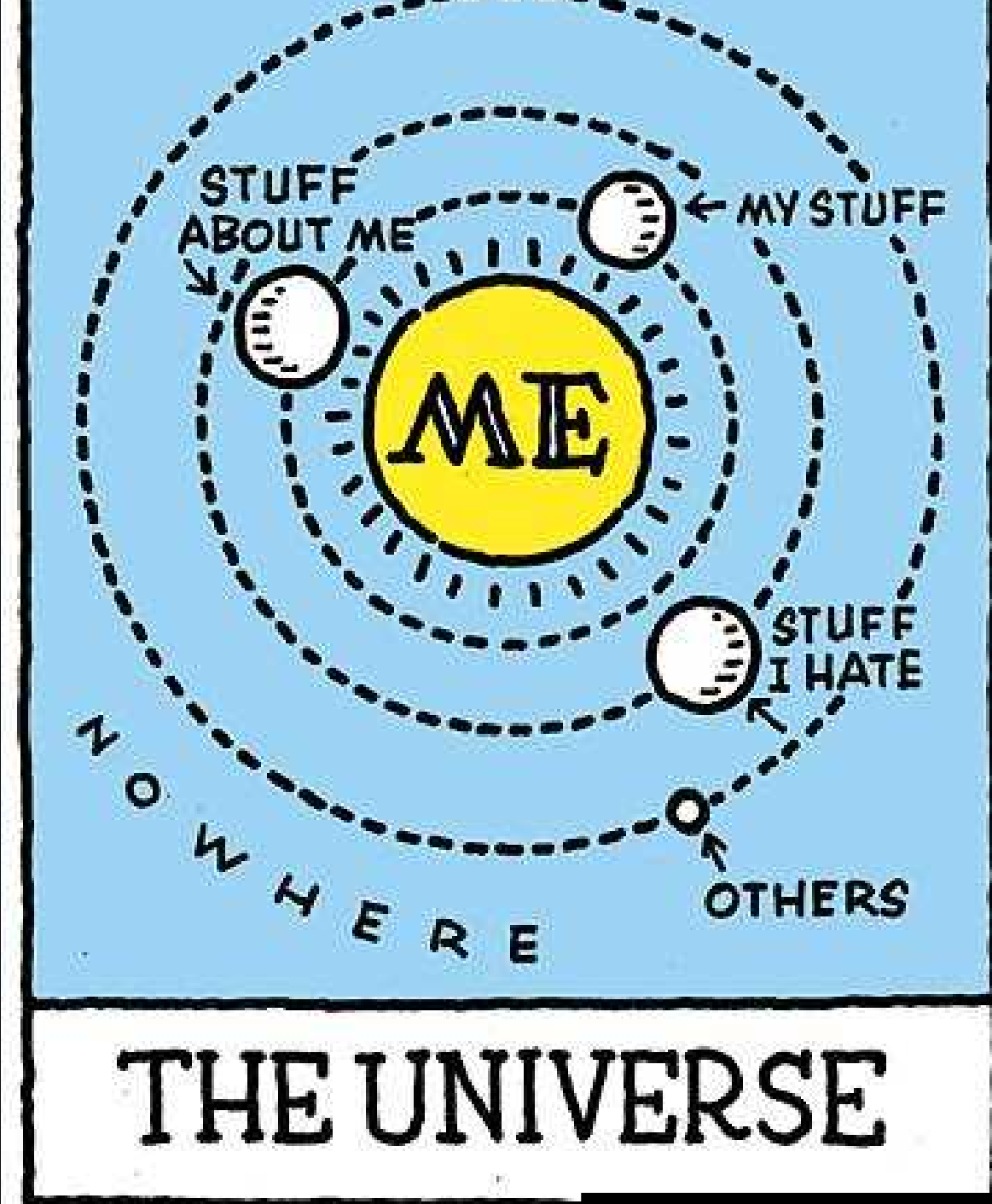


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Egoism

- If it is good for me, it is ethical.
 - “ego” = I
 - I will seek what is good for me.
 - Rugged individualism is a form of egoism.
 - Narcissism is a form of egoism.
-



Altruism

- If it enhances the physical well being of others, it is ethical.
 - Communism and socialism purport to be forms of altruism, seeking the good of the collective rather than the individual
 - Environmentalism is a form of altruism, purporting concern for others and the need to sacrifice for the sake of the greater good
 - Black Lives Matter is supported by some Christians who confuse altruism with Christian love. BLM was founded and is run by professing communists.
-



Complete vs. Incomplete

- All speculative systems are incomplete and inadequate since they leave God out of the equation.
- Only God's law is complete.
- Many Christians, churches, and seminaries have succumbed to the false narratives of non-Christian and quasi-Christian groups because they have failed to identify the ethical systems that guide these groups and have embraced groups and teachings that are antagonistic to God's word.



The Tender Trap


- Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?
- II Corinthians 6: 14-15
- Not speaking of our daily job, but of joining arms to do spiritual work.

Christian Counseling and Ethics

- Most churches have their own counselors or a counselor to whom they refer people.
- Christian counseling is not Christians who counsel, but counseling based on the bible.
- Many Christian counselors have been trained at secular schools in speculative ethics.
- Most popular form of counseling today is behavioristic which is deterministic.
 - We are determined by our environment.
 - Change the circumstances, you change the person.



Teliological vs. Ateleological Ethical Systems



A black and white portrait of Saul Alinsky, an older man with glasses, wearing a suit and tie, looking slightly to the side.

Teleological

The despair is there; now it's up to us to go in and rub raw the sores of discontent, galvanize them for radical social change.

- What matters is the end result.
 - telos = end
 - If a result is good, therefore the action is good. Hence: “the end justifies the means”
 - Great evil can be viewed as good as long as the result is good
- Saul Alinsky was teleological. “The question is not do the ends justify the means, but does this particular end justify this particular means?”
- Marxism, communism, socialism are all teleological.
- Jesuit casuistry is teleological

Saul Alinsky

AZ QUOTES

But Good for Whom?

- Good for the greatest number of people?
- Good for me?
- Good for my children?
- If it is for the greatest number of people, then going against the majority is evil.
- But who determines what is good for the greatest number of people? Does the government determine that?
- When do you reach the promised end?
 - When does the program stop?



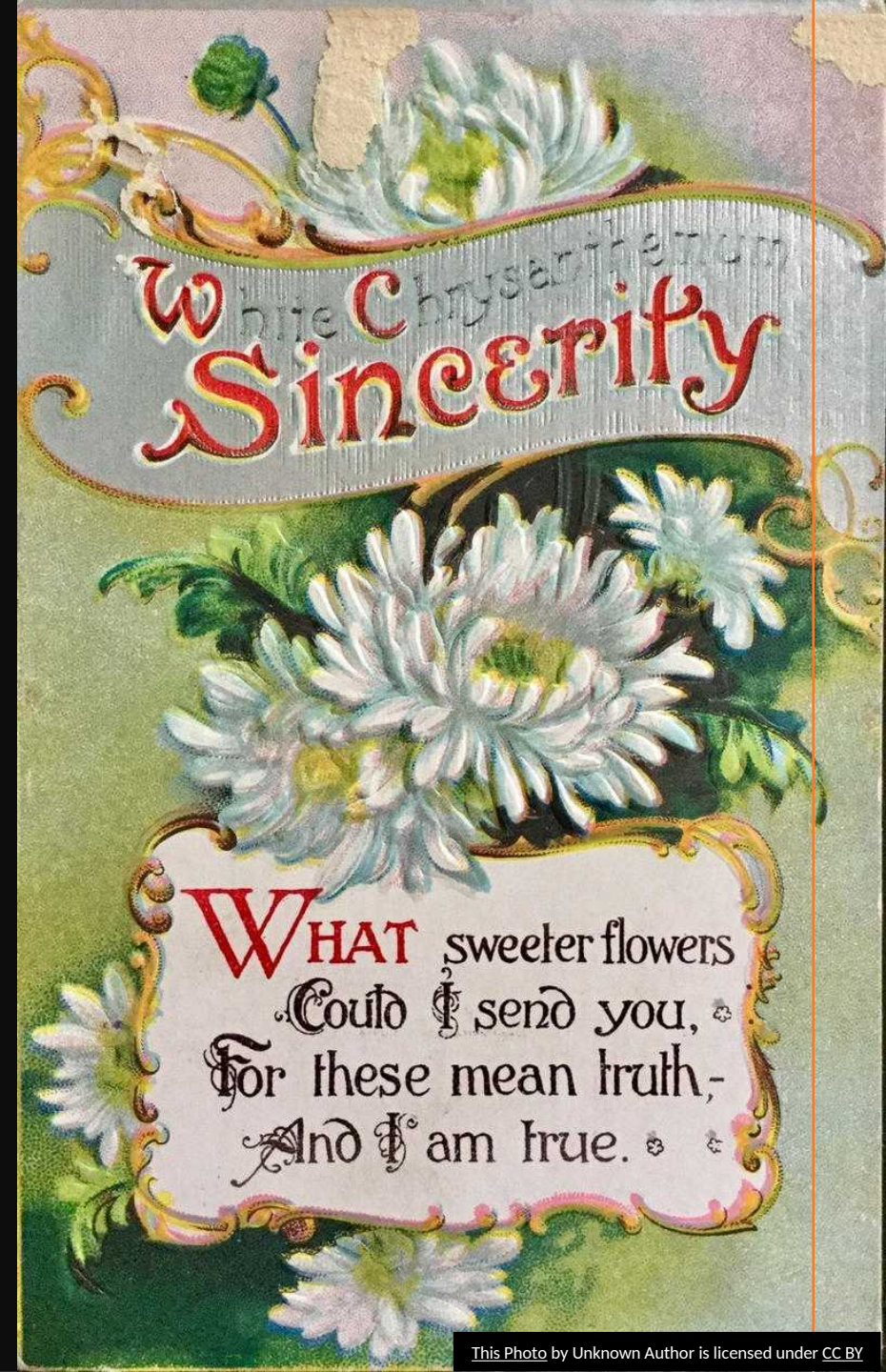
Hedonism

- Whatever gives me pleasure is good. Do whatever makes a person feel good.
 - Hedonism a form of egoistic teleological ethic.
 - But who can say if something feels good today if it will have a good result
 - The playboy ethic may feel good at the moment, but devastating in the future
 - Transgender reassignment may seem good at the moment but likewise devastating in the future
-



Ateleological

- Ateleological systems of ethics stress the motive, not the end.
 - If someone is sincere, that's all that matters.
 - "I am glad you have found what is true for you" is ateliological.
 - The sincere mother with a sick child
- The new morality is ateleological.
 - All that matters is what is in your heart, not what is in reality.
 - The rule of love, that's what is important.
 - It is good and kind to let prisoners out of jail.
 - "I feel this is the right thing for me."



Major Advantages of God's System of Ethics

- The beginning is right:
 - It deals with man's motive: the motive of man's heart is made right
 - God turns it from love of self, to love of others: Love one another even as I have loved you.
- The end is right:
 - to have personal communion with our Creator
 - to know God to be like him
 - to love Him, to glorify Him and to enjoy him forever.
- It is easily applicable in daily living:
 - God's law is not obeyed as a fearful slave, but as a loving child.
 - The law becomes a standard showing what is right and a mirror convicting us when we fail.
- It's important to note that men make systems of ethics that they think that they have kept and will keep but God's law cannot be kept.
- And therefore, it drives us to the cross.
 - It demands perfection: "Be perfect even as your Father in heaven is perfect".
 - But we are not perfect and can't keep it, but God did it for us.

The Choice

- Speculative human derived ethical systems pull God's standards down so we can think we can achieve them.
 - God's way was to lower himself to the cross and even to hell itself in order to pay for our sins, so he could lift us up again to his perfect standard.
 - What it boils down to is this: in terms of meeting some ethical standard everyone is trusting in one of two persons:
 - all speculative ethical systems require trust in ourselves.
 - God says, "Trust in Jesus".
-

