

Who Had the Better Moral Philosophy?

Arguing for Jesus

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Shared Moral Intuitions

- Morality is objective.
- Human life is inherently valuable.
- We are obligated to treat others as just as valuable as ourselves.

Rand's View

"In popular usage, the word 'selfishness' is a synonym of evil...

Yet the exact meaning and dictionary definition of the word 'selfishness' is: concern with one's own interests."

-Ayn Rand, The Virtue of Selfishness

Rand's View

- Only living objects can value.
- The primary thing they value is *their own* life.
- Morality is built upon this value.
- Morality = Self-interest
- Individual over collective.

Rand's Major Issues

- 1. Her view excludes moral duties/obligations.
- 2. It requires free will, which can't exist on physicalist atheism, which Objectivism also requires, creating a contradiction.

Jesus' View

- Individual and communal are reciprocal since individual persons are communitarian, reflecting the three persons of the Trinity.
- Love God with all of your being.
- Show love to all human beings as just as valuable as you are, including those who don't directly benefit you.

A Community Requires Individuals

"Individuals cannot give away their selves in self-giving love if they are not first of all in possession of their own selves."

-Dennis Kinlaw, Let's Start With Jesus

Love for Enemies

"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."

Matthew 5:44-45

Loving Those Who Love You

"For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

- Matthew 5:46-48

Christian Self-Denial

Not sacrifice for no benefit, but sacrifice for a purpose. Two examples:

1. Committed Sex
2. Forgiveness

Find Your Greatest Happiness in God

- Finding the Kingdom of Heaven is like finding a treasure hidden in a field and selling all you have to acquire that field. (Matthew 13)
- Jesus endured the cross for the *joy* set before him. (Hebrews 12:2)
- Paul counted everything else as loss compared to the gain of knowing Jesus (Philippians 3:8)
- John Piper coined the phrase “Christian Hedonism” to describe the joy of knowing God.

Objective Grounding

- In Christianity, we are valuable because God created us with a purpose.
- In Objectivism, / am valuable because I believe I am, and am not valuable if I decide I'm not.
- Only Christian morality can be called an objective moral view.

Christian Morality Is...

- Concerned with our relationships with others.
- About finding joy in knowing God.
- In favor of showing love to those who can't benefit us.
- Compatible with our basic moral intuitions.
- Internally coherent.

Objectivist Morality Is...

- Not.