

Immanuel Kant (1724 - 1804)

1. Pietism: Not correct beliefs or results that matter but inner goodness G-d judges us not on how successful we become or the products of our labor. But on how we live our lives and if we live our life according to our own lights, earnestly and in accordance with our own principles, G-d will give us more light.
2. Denis Diderot (1713 – 84): appearing v. being virtuous; something better than virtue
3. Rousseau (1712 - 78): Human freedom and dignity and intrinsic worth
4. Rationalism v. empiricism: morality did not depend (for Kant) on human nature nor did it arise from experience alone

Human nature ----> Feelings and Desires----> Moral Principles

Kantian Moral Philosophy:

1. What is good? The good will.
2. Duty and the Moral Law
3. Hypothetical Imperatives: If you want A, do B:
 - i. If you want a job on Wall Street, go to Business school.
 - ii. If you want to live a happy life, stay sober, eat well, and get plenty of exercise.
4. Categorical Imperatives: Do B!
 - i. Tell the truth!
 - ii. Keep your promises!
5. Duty for duty's sake
6. First formulation of the Categorical Imperative:

"Act only on that maxim whereby you can at the same time will that it would become a universal law."

 - Maxim = the general rule in accordance with which the agent intends to act
 - Law an objective principle, a maxim that passes the test of universalizability.
7. Contradiction
8. Absolutes v. Prima facie duties and obligations
9. Second formulation of the Categorical Imperative:

"Act so as to treat humanity whether in your own person or in that of any other, in every case as an end and never merely as a means only."
10. Each being has dignity and moral worth.
11. The derelict in the small Southern town.
12. Do not treat others as a means only, no matter how great the public benefit.
13. Autonomy v. Heteronomy: Orders from the captain to abandon ship.