

# Moral-Ethical Dilemma



# Ethical Dilemma

- An ethical dilemma (ethical paradox or moral dilemma) is a problem in the decision-making process between two possible options, neither of which is absolutely acceptable from an ethical perspective.



- Although we face many ethical and moral problems in our life, most of them come with relatively straightforward solutions.





- On the other hand, ethical dilemmas are extremely complicated challenges that cannot be easily solved.
- Therefore, the ability to find the optimal solution for ethical dilemmas is critical to everyone.



# How to Solve Ethical Dilemmas?

- The biggest challenge of ethical dilemma is that it does not offer an obvious solution that would comply with ethical norms.
- Throughout the history of humanity, people always faced ethical dilemmas, and philosophers aimed and worked to find solutions to the problems.



- By far, the following approaches to solve an ethical dilemma were deduced:
  - **Refute the paradox (dilemma):** The situation must be carefully analyzed. In some cases, the existence of the dilemma can be logically refuted.
  - **Value theory approach:** Choose the alternative that offers the greater good and the lesser evil.
  - **Find alternative solutions:** In some cases, the problem can be reconsidered, and the new alternative solutions may arise.



# Examples of Ethical Dilemmas

- Some examples of ethical dilemmas examples include:
  - Taking credit for others' work
  - Offering a client a worse product for your own profit
  - Using substandard materials in a construction project



# Moral Dilemma

- A moral dilemma is a conflict in which you have to choose between two or more actions and have moral reasons for choosing each action.



# Example of Moral Dilemma

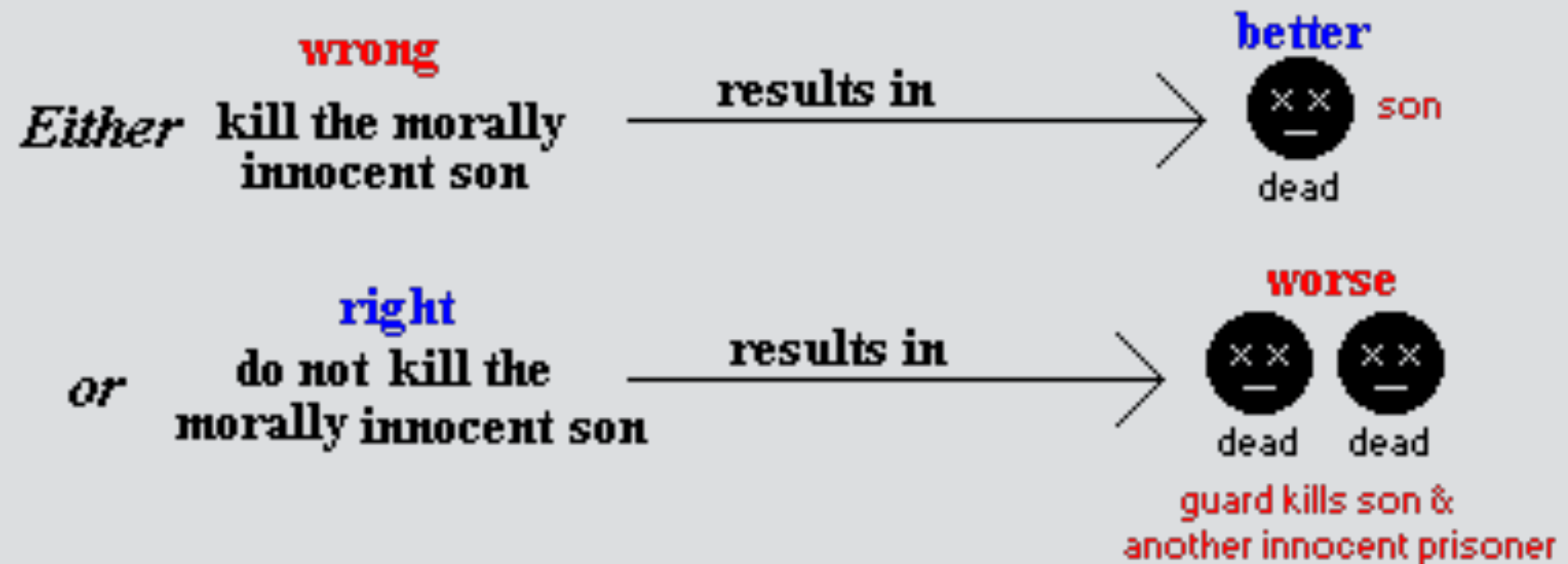
## **A Father's Agonizing Choice**

You are an inmate in a concentration camp. A sadistic guard is about to hang your son who tried to escape and wants you to pull the chair from underneath him. He says that if you don't he will not only kill your son but some other innocent inmate as well. You don't have any doubt that he means what he says. What should you do?





# Actions





# Reflection

- If you are the father, what would your option?  
And why?



# Case Study

Engineer A is employed by a software company and is involved in the design of specialized software in connection with the operations of facilities affecting the public health and safety (i.e., nuclear, air quality control, water quality control).



As the part of the design of a particular software system, Engineer A conducts extensive testing and although the tests demonstrate that the software is safe to use under existing standards, Engineer A is aware of new draft standards that are about to be released by a standard setting organization-standards which the newly designed software may not meet. Testing is extremely costly and the company's clients are eager to begin to move forward.



The software company is eager to satisfy its clients, protect the software company's finances, and protect existing jobs; but at the same time, the management of the software company wants to be sure that the software is safe to use. A series of tests proposed by Engineer A will likely result in a decision whether to move forward with the use of the software.



The tests are costly and will delay the use of the software by at least six months, which will put the company at a competitive disadvantage and cost the company a significant amount of money. Also, delaying implementation will mean the state public service commission utility rates will rise significantly during this time. The company requests Engineer A's recommendation concerning the need for additional software testing.



# Analyse the Case

- **Moral clarity**
  - What is wrong? What is the core issue/question?
- **Know the facts**
  - Identify the facts of the case.



# Analyse the Case

- **Options for you to consider**
  - Identify at least three (3) options.
- **Make a reasonable decision**
  - From your three (3) options, choose one as your decision.



# References

- <https://corporatefinanceinstitute.com/resources/knowledge/other/ethical-dilemma/>
- <http://www.friesian.com/valley/dilemmas.htm>