

KANT AND THE CATEGORICAL IMPERATIVE, PART 2

HYPOTHETICAL IMPERATIVE VS CATEGORICAL IMPERATIVE

“...if the action is would be good merely as a means to something else, the imperative is hypothetical; if the action is represented as in itself good, hence as necessary in a will in itself conforming to reason, as its principle, then it is categorical.”

_ Immanuel Kant

WHY IS THE CATEGORICAL IMPERATIVE CATEGORICAL?

“When I think of a hypothetical imperative in general I do not know beforehand what it will contain; I do not know this until I am given the condition. But when I think of a categorical imperative I know at once what it contains. For, since the imperative contains, beyond the law, only the necessity that the maxim be in conformity with this law...”

_ Immanuel Kant

CATEGORICAL IMPERATIVE (IMPERATIVE OF MORALITY)

“act only in accordance with that maxim through which you can at the same time will that it become a universal law of nature.”

_ Immanuel Kant

PRACTICAL IMPERATIVE (HUMANITY)

“So act that you use humanity, whether in your own person or in the person of any other, always at the same time as an end, never merely as a means.”

_ Immanuel Kant

¶ AUTONOMY OF THE WILL

“Thus the third practical principle follows as the ultimate condition of their harmony with practical reason: the idea of the will of every rational being as a universally legislating will.”

_ Immanuel Kant