

KANT AND THE CATEGORICAL IMPERATIVE: PART 1

IMMANUEL KANT [1724 - 1804]



THE ONLY UNCONDITIONAL GOOD IS GOOD WILL

*“It is impossible to think of anything at all in the world, or indeed even beyond it, that could be considered good without limitation except **good will.**”*

WHY GOOD WILL?

Are the following good *despite* good will?

- Talents
- Fortunes
- Personal traits

GOOD WILL IS GOOD INTRINSICALLY

*“A good will is not good because of what it effects or accomplishes, because of its fitness to attain some proposed end, but only because of its volition, that is, **it is good in itself and regarded for itself**...if with its greatest efforts it should yet achieve nothing and only the good will were left, then like a jewel, it would still shine by itself, as something that has its full worth, in itself.”*

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INTRINSIC GOOD	INSTRUMENTAL GOOD	BOTH
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PLEASURE (Mill)	JUSTICE (Glaucou)	JUSTICE (Socrates)
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GOOD WILL (Kant)

DUTY IS THAT WHICH CONFORMS WITH A PRINCIPLE RECOGNIZED BY REASON

“Nothing other than the representation of the law in itself, which can of course occur only in rational being...can constitute the preeminent good we call moral.”

GOLDEN RULE

“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you”

GOLDEN RULE ACROSS RELIGION AND CULTURES

Confucianism	“what you do not wish for yourself, do not do to others”
Buddhism	“hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful”
Hinduism	“this is the sum of duty; do naught onto others what you would not have them do unto you”
Islam	“no one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself”
