

Immanuel Kant: The Categorical Imperative

Review Questions:

1. Explain Kant's account of the good will.

According to Kant it is impossible to visualize something at all in the world or even out if it, which can be taken as good without condition, except goodwill. Without the principles of good things it may become extremely bad. Also the very coolness of crook makes them not merely more dangerous but more immediately and more abominable in human eyes than we should have taken them to be without.

2. Distinguish between hypothetical and categorical imperatives

According to Kant, human beings dwell in a special place in creation, and morality can be summed up in one ultimate commandment of reason, from which all duties and obligations originate. He clearly defined an imperative as any proposition that reveals a specific action (or inaction) to be required. A hypothetical imperative compels action in a given condition: if I wish to quench my thirst, I must drink something. A categorical imperative, in contrast, symbolizes an absolute, unconditional requirement that asserts its authority in all situations, both required and acceptable as an end in itself.

3. States the first formulation of the categorical imperative (using the notion of a universal law), and explain how Kant uses this rule to derive some specific duties toward self and others.

Kant concludes that a moral proposition is true must be one that is not tied to any particular conditions, including the identity of the person making the moral deliberation. A moral maxim must have universality which is to say that it must be disconnected from the actual physical details surrounding the proposition, and could be used to any rational being. This leads to the first formulation of the categorical imperative:

"Act only according to that maxim whereby you can at the same time will that it should become a universal law."

Kant separates the duties imposed by this formulation into two subsets: perfect duty and imperfect duty.

4. State the second version of the categorical imperative (using the language of means and end) and explain it.

The free will is the source of all rational action. But to treat it as a subjective end is to deny the possibility of freedom in general. Since the autonomous will is the absolute source of moral

action, it would contradict the first formulation to claim that a person is merely a means to some other end, rather than always an end in his or her self.

On this basis, Kant derives second formulation of the categorical imperative from the first.

"Act in such a way that person treats humanity, whether in ourselves or others, always at the same time as an end and never merely as a means to an end."

The second formulation also directs to the imperfect duty to extend the ends of ourselves and others. If any person wishes perfection in himself or others, it would be his moral duty to search for that end for all humankind equally, so long as that end does not conflict perfect duty.

Discussion Questions:

- 1. Are the two versions of the categorical imperative just different expressions of one basic rule, or are two different rules? Defend your view.**

In my point of view it is one basic rule as in the categorical imperative it is just concerning about the subject in which it is not really certain difference in rules. If you will accept a case whether you know or not you will accept it for the reason that in any sense you still have to do it in which you will need same approach in spite of everything you will be suspected.

- 2. Kant claims that an action that is not done from the motive of duty has no moral truth. Do you agree or not?**

Yes, I agree to it for the reason that in any sense you did not do a task as you are considering it as a job.

- 3. Some commentators think that the categorical imperative can be used to justify non-moral or immoral actions. Is this a good criticism?**

I believe that is not a good criticism because not at once you can say what that object thinks of it. You cannot criticize a person easily because you know what it contains. I think there are still different factors to consider before criticizing issues.