The most famous Deontologist

Immanuel Kant - Prussian

Kant’s Deontology

Discovers obligations that are

* Universal
* Objective
* Absolute

The source of these obligations is *reason,* not tradition, authority or the desire for happiness.

The influence of Stoicism on Kant

Kant agrees with the Stoics that:

* Reason gives us the ability to be moral.
* To be moral, we need t oknow and perform our duties.
* Consequences of actions are often out of our control; they don’t matter as much as *how* we act.
* Emotional states get in the way of being moral.

Kantian ethics: typology of duties

To Oneself to others

Perfect (always hold) the duty to preserve life(no suicide) The duty to tell the truth

Imperfect (doesn’t always hold) the duty to improve yourself the duty to help others

(beneficence)

Kantian ethics: the categorical imperative (CI)

“Act only according to that maxim by which you can at the same time will that it should become a universal law.”

Kantian ethics: persons as ends-in-themselves

“Act so that you treat humanity, whether in your own person or in that of another, always as an end and never as a means only.”

Objects/tools (value stems from usefulness as a means to our ends)

Vs

Persons (have intrinsic value, are “ends-in-themselves” are not to be treated merely as means to our ends)