Zac Crane

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4/5/15

Discussion Post 2: Option 1

On the topic of activities being conducted privately with public effects, I cannot come up with any specific examples to illustrate that this should be true. I feel that what a person does in their private time, should be just that, private. It should not have any bearing on their other activites assuming they are doing their public duty (or job) right, and that activity is left out of the workplace / public environment. The example that comes to my mind is the role filled by a politician. This is a publically viewable job and it provides an excellent case to support my train of thought. A politician should be judged by their capacity in office, not what they do in their free time. If a politician is in a same sex relationship (or they are a vegetarian, any argument can fit), this should have no bearing on their job. Some will say it does, but that seems like a reason to discriminate against other people.

The term private is used by me to describe anything that happens outside a public area, such as in a house. Public is used to describe anything that is accessible by more than one individual, and is not owned by one person. Places that are public would be the work place, city streets, etc.

An actor is solely responsible for the morality of their actions. It is a collective effort on everyone’s part to help enforce this when someone is not doing their duty to keep private and public matters separate. For example, a person should not go into the work place and discuss illegal activities, for this is distracting from the work environment and due to the legality, places people in awkward situations (if you overhear someone talking about doing drugs, do you have an obligation to talk to them about their drug use?). As far as creating a rule set, I feel that the best thing to do is consider the situation and then apply a varying amount of philosophies to the situation. The rules should be a combination of utilitarian and deontological thinking, but it should be considered by more than one individual if possible.