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God & Moral Obligation

C. STEPHEN EVANS

God And Moral Obligation

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God And Moral Obligation:

God and Moral Obligation C. Stephen Evans, 2013-03-01 Is there a connection between religion and morality Ivan Karamazov in Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov* famously declares that if God does not exist then everything is permitted Most philosophers reject such a view and hold that moral truths do not depend on God C Stephen Evans argues that the truth lies somewhere between these two claims It is not quite right to say that there would be nothing left of morality if God did not exist but moral obligations do depend on God ontologically Such obligations are best understood as God's commands or requirements communicated to humans in a variety of ways including conscience In *God and Moral Obligation* Evans also argues that two views often thought to be rivals to a divine command morality natural law ethics and virtue ethics are not rivals at all but provide necessary complementary elements of a comprehensive morality A number of objections to a divine command account of moral obligations are posed and answered In the concluding chapters Evans points out the advantages such an account has over secular rivals The authority and objectivity of moral obligations are best explained by seeing them as divine commands

Understanding Moral Obligation Robert Stern, 2011-12-15 In many histories of modern ethics Kant is supposed to have ushered in an anti realist or constructivist turn by holding that unless we ourselves author or lay down moral norms and values for ourselves our autonomy as agents will be threatened In this book Robert Stern challenges the cogency of this argument from autonomy and claims that Kant never subscribed to it Rather it is not value realism but the apparent obligatoriness of morality that really poses a challenge to our autonomy how can this be accounted for without taking away our freedom The debate the book focuses on therefore concerns whether this obligatoriness should be located in ourselves Kant in others Hegel or in God Kierkegaard Stern traces the historical dialectic that drove the development of these respective theories and clearly and sympathetically considers their merits and disadvantages he concludes by arguing that the choice between them remains open

God and Moral Law Mark C. Murphy, 2011-11-17 Does God's existence make a difference to how we explain morality Mark C Murphy critiques the two dominant theistic accounts of morality natural law theory and divine command theory and presents a novel third view He argues that we can value natural facts about humans and their good while keeping God at the centre of our moral explanations The characteristic methodology of theistic ethics is to proceed by asking whether there are features of moral norms that can be adequately explained only if we hold that such norms have some sort of theistic foundation But this methodology fruitful as it has been is one sided *God and Moral Law* proceeds not from the side of the moral norms so to speak but from the God side of things what sort of explanatory relationship should we expect between God and moral norms given the existence of the God of orthodox theism Mark C Murphy asks whether the conception of God in orthodox theism as an absolutely perfect being militates in favour of a particular view of the explanation of morality by appeal to theistic facts He puts this methodology to work and shows that surprisingly natural law theory and divine command theory fail to offer the sort of explanation of morality that we would

expect given the existence of the God of orthodox theism Drawing on the discussion of a structurally similar problem that of the relationship between God and the laws of nature Murphy articulates his new account of the relationship between God and morality one in which facts about God and facts about nature cooperate in the explanation of moral law

Religion and Morality William J. Wainwright, 2017-03-02 Religion and Morality addresses central issues arising from religion's relation to morality Part I offers a sympathetic but critical appraisal of the claim that features of morality provide evidence for the truth of religious belief Part II examines divine command theories objections to them and positive arguments in their support Part III explores tensions between human morality as ordinarily understood and religious requirements by discussing such issues as the conflict between Buddhist and Christian pacifism and requirements of justice whether virtue without a love of God is really a vice whether the God of the Abrahamic religions could require us to do something that seems clearly immoral and the ambiguous relations between religious mysticism and moral behavior Covering a broad range of topics this book draws on both historical and contemporary literature and explores afresh central issues of morality and religion offering new insights for students academics and the general reader interested in philosophy and religion

Divine Voluntarism Mi Young Nam, 2004 Divine voluntarism Divine command theory is a series of theories that claim that God is prior to moral obligation and that moral obligation is determined by God's will Divine voluntarism has to be formulated in a way that it does not have undesirable implications e.g. that moral obligation is arbitrary and that God's goodness is trivial Also while it avoids these undesirable implications divine voluntarism must not imply that God is in some way restricted by moral obligation which exists independently of Him Divine voluntarism can admit God's sovereignty over moral obligation and avoid making moral obligation arbitrary or God's goodness trivial by admitting various aspects of God's will Moral obligation is relevant to both God's will for human moral obligation and God's will for human moral good After all God's will for human moral obligation is God's willing that His own will for human moral good constitute moral obligation for humans

Nature and Command J. Caleb Clanton, Kraig Martin, 2023-08-18 Since at least the time of Plato religious explanations of the metaphysical foundations of morality have typically fallen into one of two camps natural law theory according to which morality is fundamentally explained by facts about human nature facts that God is responsible for and divine command theory which holds that moral obligations arise directly from God's commands or some other prescriptive act of the divine will J. Caleb Clanton and Kraig Martin offer an accessible analysis of these traditional views reconstruct the various arguments for and against them and offer an extended consideration of the historical emergence of the divide between these positions within the Christian tradition Nature and Command goes on to develop and defend a theory that combines these two views a metaethical approach that has not yet received the scholarly attention it deserves Along the way the authors make use of underexplored theological resources drawn from the Stone Campbell movement a nineteenth century restoration movement that culminated in one of the largest Protestant groups in America by the dawn of the twentieth century Nature

and Command summons the resources of this particular Christian heritage its first principles call for unity and ecumenism to solve one of the great dilemmas of moral philosophy and theology dating back to Plato's Euthyphro This historically aware argumentatively rigorous and highly readable volume will serve as a valuable resource for moral philosophy and ethics as well as for mining the Stone Campbell Restoration tradition for historical and theological insights

Kierkegaard's Ethic of Love C. Stephen Evans, 2004-09-10 C. Stephen Evans explains and defends Kierkegaard's account of moral obligations as rooted in God's commands the fundamental command being You shall love your neighbour as yourself The work will be of interest not only to those interested in Kierkegaard but also to those interested in the relation between ethics and religion especially questions about whether morality can or must have a religious foundation As well as providing a comprehensive reading of Kierkegaard as an ethical thinker Evans puts him into conversation with contemporary moral theorists Kierkegaard's divine command theory is shown to be an account that safeguards human flourishing as well as protecting the proper relations between religion and state in a pluralistic society

Sinners in the Presence of a Loving God R. Zachary Manis, 2019 In Sinners in the Presence of a Loving God R. Zachary Manis examines in detail the several facets of the problem of hell considers the reasons why the usual responses to the problem are unsatisfying and suggests how an adequate solution to the problem can be constructed

Ethics and the Problem of Evil Marilyn McCord Adams, John Hare, Linda Zagzebski, Laura Garcia, Bruce Russell, Stephen J. Wykstra, Stephen Maitzen, 2017-02-27 Provocative essays that seek to turn the attention of analytic philosophy of religion on the problem of evil towards advances in ethical theory Reading Religion The contributors to this book Marilyn McCord Adams John Hare Linda Zagzebski Laura Garcia Bruce Russell Stephen Wykstra and Stephen Maitzen attended two University of Notre Dame conferences in which they addressed the thesis that there are yet untapped resources in ethical theory for affecting a more adequate solution to the problem of evil The problem of evil has been an extremely active area of study in the philosophy of religion for many years Until now most sources have focused on logical metaphysical and epistemological issues leaving moral questions as open territory With the resources of ethical theory firmly in hand this volume provides lively insight into this ageless philosophical issue These essays and others will be of primary interest to scholars working in analytic philosophy of religion from a self-consciously Christian standpoint but its audience is not limited to such persons The book offers illustrative examples of how scholars in philosophy of religion understand their aims and how they go about making their arguments hopefully more work will follow this volume's lead

Reading Religion Recommended Choice

God as the Necessary Foundation of Moral Obligation Bernard J. Nienhaus, 1961

The Chautauquan, 1881

Religion and Morality Daniel Statman, Avi Sagi, 2022-06-08 Religion and Morality seeks to answer two fundamental questions regarding the relation between religion and morality The first is the puzzle posed by Socrates the so-called Euthyphro dilemma which asks is morality valuable by virtue of its intrinsic importance and worth or is morality valuable because and only because God approves it and commands us to follow its

dictates The second question is raised by Kierkegaard in *Fear and Trembling* He asks Is a conflict between religion and morality possible Does God ever demand that we neglect our moral commitments The discussion on these questions is divided into three parts In the first two parts we discuss the idea that morality depends on religion The authors distinguish two types of dependence strong dependence according to which the very existence or validity of moral obligations depends on God's command and weak dependence according to which though morality itself is independent of God God or belief in God is necessary to enable human beings to know their moral duties and to carry them out The authors reject the strong dependence thesis as well as most versions of the weak dependence The third part of the book discusses different versions of the view that religion might conflict with morality The authors reject this view and show that very few religious thinkers would follow it all the way through to its ultimate consequences The book has implications for the philosophy of religion in its emphasis on the centrality of the moral element in religion and for moral philosophy in its highlighting among other things of the nature of moral judgments

Finite and Infinite Goods Robert Merrihew Adams, 1999-07-29 Renowned scholar Robert Adams explores the relation between religion and ethics through a comprehensive philosophical account of a theistically based framework for ethics Adams framework begins with the good rather than the right and with excellence rather than usefulness He argues that loving the excellent of which adoring God is a clear example is the most fundamental aspect of a life well lived Developing his original and detailed theory Adams contends that devotion the sacred grace martyrdom worship vocation faith and other concepts drawn from religious ethics have been sorely overlooked in moral philosophy and can enrich the texture of ethical thought

Lectures on Moral Government of God Vol2 Nathaniel William Taylor, 2009-05-05 With our American Philosophy and Religion series Applewood reissues many primary sources published throughout American history Through these books scholars interpreters students and non academics alike can see the thoughts and beliefs of Americans who came before us

Lectures on the Moral Government of God Nathaniel W. Taylor, 2023-04-29 Reprint of the original first published in 1859 The publishing house Anatiposi publishes historical books as reprints Due to their age these books may have missing pages or inferior quality Our aim is to preserve these books and make them available to the public so that they do not get lost

The Road to God Wilfred Monod, 1928

Lectures on Systematic Theology ... Charles Grandison Finney, 1851

Christian Ethics; Or, The True Moral Manhood and Life of Duty D. S. Gregory, 1875

Elements of Theology Luther Lee, 1863

Elements of Theology; or, an Exposition of the divine origin, doctrines, morals, and institutions of Christianity Luther Lee, 1856

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