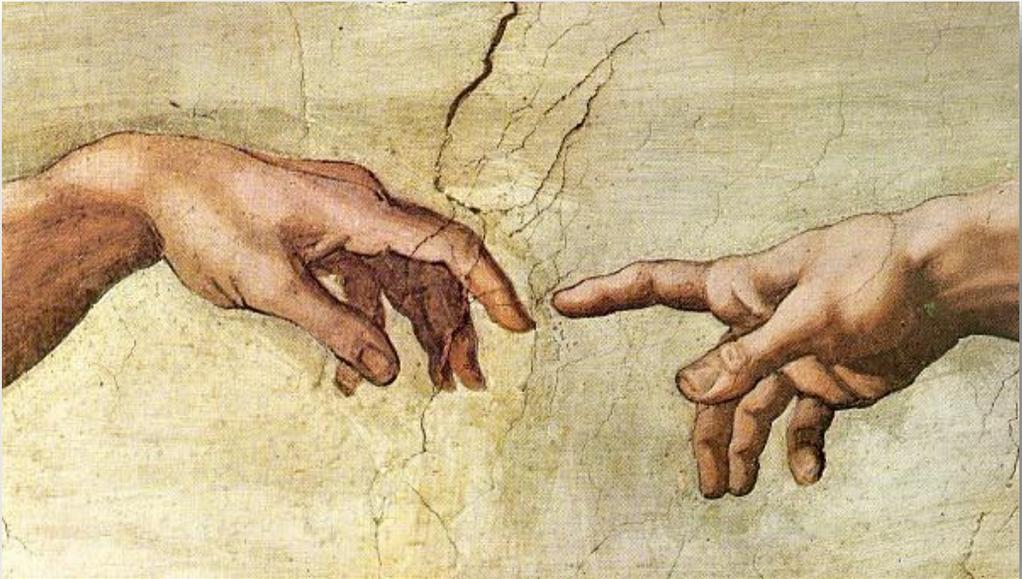


Where Can I Look for the Greater Good?



3

“I am the way and the truth and the life.”

Jn 14:6

5 A SUITABLE HELPER: MORALITY

3

Where Can I Look for the Greater Good?

“I am the way and the truth and the life.”

Jn 14:6



1 In science class you have probably used a light bulb to build a diorama. And the teacher probably graded your work based on whether or not it lit up.

What is needed in order for the light bulb to light up?



The purpose of a light bulb is to *GIVE OFF LIGHT*... but... what is needed in a circuit in order for the current to get to the light bulb and make it turn on?

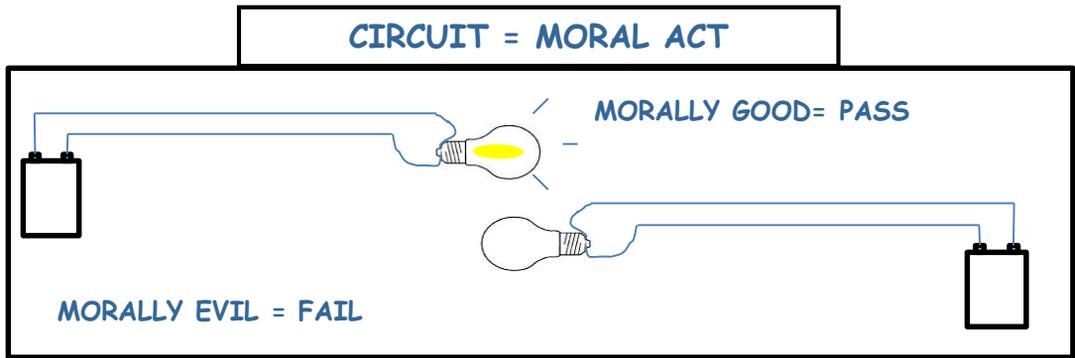
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Where Can I Look for the Greater Good?

2 Now we're going to compare the circuit of this science project to a MORAL ACT. We've already seen how morality is a dimension of the PERSON and that every ACT is MORAL, since every act is personal.

That is to say, the CIRCUIT is part of the science project. It doesn't cease to be a circuit because it is part of the science project, but it will be a GOOD circuit if the light turns on and a BAD circuit, if it doesn't.



Prior to continuing, let's analyze the elements of a circuit. What are they?



When you've had to do a science project, for sure you have run into many difficulties when it came time to put it together:

- ☞ The cables split or don't attach well.
- ☞ The batteries aren't connected correctly.
- ☞ One of the battery poles leaks.
- ☞ The light bulb breaks.
- ☞ And so on...

You need to be prudent, gentle and careful so that your project turns out well. The LIGHT has to turn on, and for that to happen all the elements in the circuit have to be assembled well. If any one of the elements fails, the circuit won't work and the light won't turn on, and I will fail science class!

5 A SUITABLE HELPER: MORALITY

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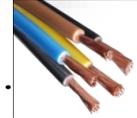
Where Can I Look for the Greater Good?

The same thing happens with our acts. There are three basic elements that constitute a MORAL ACT:

↳ INTENTION or END.....



↳ OBJECT or MEANS.....



↳ CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE ACT.....



In order for ACTS to be MORALLY GOOD, we need the same thing to happen as with the science project: ALL the elements have to simultaneously be GOOD: the goodness of the object, of the end and of the circumstances.



My ACTS are always MORAL because I am a PERSON and MORALITY is a characteristic that is proper to the person.

What does depend on me, on my freedom, reason and will, is whether my acts are MORALLY GOOD or MORALLY EVIL.

The goodness of acts depends on each one of their elements being good as well:

I MYSELF choose the intention and the object; the circumstances that I experience aren't sufficient to judge whether an act is morally good or not.

For an act to be morally good the end does not justify the means. In other words, a morally good act cannot come from an evil act.

There are acts that, in and of themselves, independent of their circumstances and intentions, are illicit; one example of this is killing.

5 A SUITABLE HELPER: MORALITY

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Where Can I Look for the Greater Good?

3 Next, we will provide you with a series of actions. In small groups, try to identify each one of their elements and evaluate whether or not it is a morally good act.



ACT	ELEMENTS: OBJECT, INTENTION, CIRCUMSTANCES	✓GOOD x EVIL
A very responsible young person, who normally takes the bus to work, oversleeps and takes his dad's car in order to get to work on time, but he doesn't have his driver's license because he left it in another town.		
A mother with seven children, who has no income because both she and her husband are out of work, takes two loaves of bread from the supermarket when no one is looking in order to be able to feed her children.		
A senior in high school who just needs to take one more test before graduating shows up with a cheat sheet to a test that they didn't study enough for.		
An employee at a daycare center smokes like a chimney, and cigarettes relax him. He is very tired after a long day at work and, knowing that smoking is not allowed, he hides out in the teachers' bathroom instead of going where he usually does, so that he won't get caught.		
A man with great economic standing and social status makes a sizable donation to an important non-profit. He doesn't feel connected to the humanitarian work that their volunteers do, but he knows that news of his donation will get out in the news and the tabloids, and that will be good for his image.		

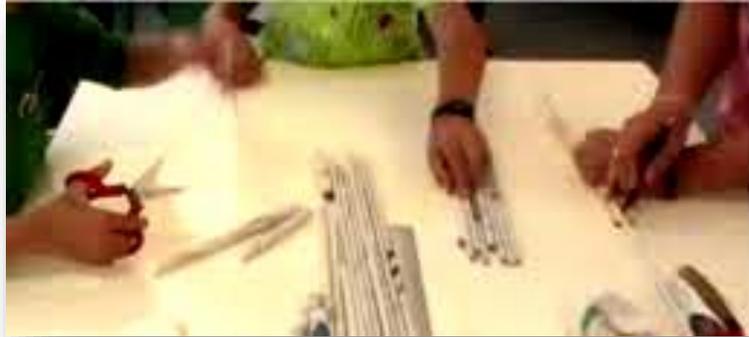
5 A SUITABLE HELPER: MORALITY

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Where Can I Look for the Greater Good?

4 Let's go back to our science project. Normally, these projects are done in groups. Various students work together on the project: they make an effort, plan it out, and their work will all pay off when they get their **GRADE**:

Excellent, Good, Average, Poor or Failing.



Imagine that there are three people in a group: Daniel, Claire and Ruben. They divide the supplies needed for the project and decide to meet at 5:30 p.m. at Claire's house.

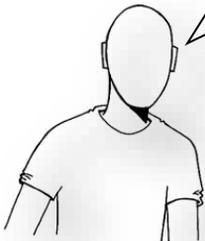
- Daniel comes an hour late.
- Ruben forgot to bring glue.

How will this affect the project? What about my classmates?



Have I ever stopped to think that my actions have **CONSEQUENCES**?

Am I the master of my actions?



5 A SUITABLE HELPER: MORALITY

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Where Can I Look for the Greater Good?



My acts have consequences. ALWAYS!

These consequences can be good or evil, according to whether my acts are good or evil.

These consequences don't just affect me, my happiness, my dignity and my fullness as a person, but they also affect and touch the hearts and lives of other people.

What I do, my behavior, my attitude and my actions either make me grow as a person or damage me, make me little. They have the same effects on other people, too.

I am called to be fully happy, being what I AM: image and likeness of God. And God, who is LOVE, is GOODNESS.

Many times we are incapable of choosing what is best for ourselves, or for the people around us that we love. And it is difficult for us to choose WELL.

We aren't capable of turning on the light bulb of our heart.



Let's not forget that the light turns on when it receives the current.

Let's do everything in our power to plug ourselves in to the source of light, GOD, in order to SHINE!!!

