

Kant philosophy

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Although goodwill and inclinations are synonymous, Kant's philosophy specifies that they characterize some differences in human behavior. Goodwill is good, without any qualification, but inclinations may have contrary motives. The goodness of a person's will is the greatest of all motivations because it presents no ulterior motives. In contrast, inclinations and obligations define the role and responsibility that one has towards the society and their friends. A person is only morally good if they have goodwill.

Moral obligations and goodwill are not necessarily connected. Obligations and inclinations arise from duty. Consoling a grieving friend arises from duty, which is part of moral judgments. It is the right thing to do in such a situation. Normative judgment specifies that consoling a person, as a specific course of action, is the rational course if they are grieving. Emotions motivate moral obligation because one empathizes through showing compassion. Moral law demands that one consoles a friend, but if goodwill does not motivate such an action, then the inclination may have selfish interests.

Principle and reason shapes human behavior, rather than the expected consequence or emotional feeling that triggers actions. For that reason, a person would see it right to console somebody because of principle, even if they feel no compassion or empathy for the victim. This means that conscious concerns regulate emotions and they serve an important role in the person's moral life. Human dignity demands that one act in similar way that they would like others to treat them. Even so, while the society cannot

hold a person accountable for moral obligations or inclinations, they are accountable for their goodwill, because it is often under a person's control.