

SLIDE	NOTES
1	<p>TITLE In this module we introduce an overview of the central branch of philosophy called ETHICS.</p>
2	<p>In previous modules in our building of philosophy man, we discussed:</p> <p>Anim1: AXIOMS: Which are the irreducible, inescapable, and invincible self-evident facts upon which all the other branches of philosophy stand.</p> <p>Anim2: METAPHYSICS (eternal laws): Which are the self-existing facts of reality. Metaphysics is represented as the main leg in "Philosophy Man", with its ontological framework of primacy of existence, and God-inside-the box.</p> <p>Anim3: EPISTEMOLOGY (eternal truths): Which are discovered facts relating to consciousness and knowing truth. * Epistemology (eternal truth) is represented as the balancing leg in "Philosophy Man" with its correspondence definition of truth and logical coherence of knowledge.</p> <p>Anim4: ETHICS: We now turn our attention to ETHICS which describes pursued facts dealing with valuing, desiring and acting. * Ethics is represented as the central core trunk in philosophy man. In the philosophic hierarchy, ethics is dependent on metaphysics, epistemology, and the axioms. * As we will discuss in coming modules, from ethics and above the branches of philosophy are colored "for me", "against me" or "neutral to me". * Everything below ethics are just cold, hard, uncolored facts.</p>
3	<p>ETHICS PREVIEW * As we move into Ethics. The following is a review and preview.</p> <p>Anim1: EPISTEMOLOGY: As babies at some point in our early life, we "wake up" , conscious, stuck in "primacy of conscious" in Epistemology with little or no understanding of external reality.</p> <p>Anim2: METAPHYSICS: * Little-by-little, reality begins forcing itself upon us, and we soon become aware that there is an external world out there beyond our consciousness as we start doing things that interact with that external reality. * We drop things out of our high-chairs and wonder why they fall. We cry until a parent brings it back to us, then we drop it again, continually testing metaphysics, until we learn that the objects don't obey what we would like them to do...The objects follow laws of cause and affect independent of what we think about them.</p> <p>Anim3: IS GAP: * We soon discover there is a huge gap between Epistemology (our seeking for truth) and Metaphysics (understanding what is actually real). Philosophers call this the "IS" gap... * Struggling to know what actually "IS", we start asking questions like: What is real? What is true? What actions ought I to do?</p> <p>Anim4: OUGHT GAP: * The IS gap, also leads to another problem in the form of a huge gap between Epistemology and Ethics. * Philosophers call this the "OUGHT" gap...Once you ask yourself what IS, it then leads to what actions I OUGHT to do.</p> <p>Anim5: BRIDGE (IS): How do we get to reality (Metaphysics) from the consciousness in our minds (Epistemology)? * Kant and many other Primacy of Consciousness folks say you can't...They say either there is no such thing as reality (because your mind creates it) or reality is there but is unknowable by you. Bad philosophy such as this causes us to resort to Pragmatism (we guess what works as we go along).</p>

4

DESCRIPTIVE TRUTHS

- * Primacy of reality philosophers claim the bridge to discovering reality is man's mind using our power of reason via perception and conception.
- * Reason is non-contradictory identification...Which is another way of saying "The Law of Identity". Identity (through Reason) is the bridge to existence.
- * The law of identity is an axiom which allows us to use our reason and see if what we claim to be true is actually in harmony with reality.
- * These FACTS of reality are called DESCRIPTIVE TRUTHS because they describe what is real according to the correspondence definition of truth (D&C 93).
- * What we believe to be true in our mind CORRESPONDS with FACTS of Reality.
- * Everything we have discussed to this point has dealt with the principles of learning descriptive truth (the IS gap). Descriptive truths are the cold, hard, black and white facts of reality.

Anim: BRIDGE (OUGHT):

What about the gap from KNOWING to DOING (Epistemology to Ethics)? How do we close the "OUGHT" bridge?

5

PRESCRIPTIVE TRUTHS:

Quote: John 13:17

- * The OUGHT gap is where mankind is caught in between KNOWING what is real and deciding what he should morally DO about it.
- * Going forward we will discuss the principles of what is called PRESCRIPTIVE TRUTHS or how we apply the *descriptive* truths we have learned.
- * Prescriptive truths are facts of reality colored according to how they relate to me personally, and others around me.
- * Scientists and Philosophers have struggled with prescriptive truths because there are no "Oughts" out there in reality to go pick up and examine.
- * Science and observations can describe what IS in reality but not what we OUGHT to do about it.
- * Correspondence is not enough to tell you what you OUGHT to do...This is where righteousness enters in. Desires must Conform to a standard for them to be correct (righteous) desires.

Where do righteous desires come from?

Anim1: LIFE and Values:

- * There has to be a standard for morality, otherwise, everyone is just guessing.
- * Eternalism claims that Oughts are based on your life needs and desire for values that lead to happiness.
- * You Ought to desire what is good for you. Good means you accurately VALUE facts of reality, relative to how it affects your LIFE.
- * The question is
 - * What kind of LIFE do you want?
- * The end purpose of any life is Happiness (joy)...Any knowledge of what is good for you...Is directed to righteous actions for you...That lead to Happiness in your life.
 - * Whose life? Your Life (The 1st "You" in John 13:17)...
 - * Whose Happiness?...Your Happiness (The 2nd "You" in John 13:17)

Which Life (Mortal or Eternal)?

Anim2: SPIRITUAL REALM

- * This is where Eternalism parts ways with mortal Philosophy which can't see beyond Mortality.
- * We believe the purpose of the MORTAL REALM is to act with Eternity in mind by learning and acting on: ETERNAL LAWS, ETERNAL TRUTHS, and ETERNAL LIVES
- * We believe in a **SPIRITUAL REALM** that underlies everything, with a divine substance called the **HOLY SPIRIT** which permeates all of existence.

Anim3: REALITY STANDARD

- * In both the TEMPORAL and SPIRITUAL REALMS...REALITY is the standard of truth and knowledge. Your goal is to put your mind in harmony with reality.
- * Where historical Christianity says GOD is the DEFINITION of truth...We say Knowledge of REALITY is the definition of truth with God being the Perfect SOURCE (or example) of Truth.

	<p>Anim4: ETERNAL LIFE STANDARD * In both the TEMPORAL and SPIRITUAL REALMS...ETERNAL LIFE is the standard of all VALUES you OUGHT to pursue. * Where historical Christianity says God is the STANDARD of morality (the good)...We say ETERNAL LIFE is the standard of morality with God being the Perfect SOURCE or example of morality (the good).</p> <p>Anim5: PERFECT STANDARD All three areas are part of the Godhead: * SPIRITUAL CREATION: God The Creator (Father...a divine being), * SPIRITUAL REVELATION: God The Revelator (Holy Ghost...a divine being) * SPIRITUAL SALVATION: God The Redeemer (The Son...a divine being) * Where historical Christianity says God is the standard of PERFECTION...We agree. God is perfect in TRUTH and RIGHTEOUSNESS. * All of this progresses Man's Divine Nature toward improving his ability to: Think, Power to Act, Capacity to Enjoy. Using Mind (Reason), Heart (Emotion) all in their Proper Order (or primacy).</p>
6	<p>There are three aspects to Ethics</p> <p>Normative Ethics Anim1: Deals with General Principles or Moral Code communicating Right or Wrong Anim2: Think of Codes of Conduct such as The Ten Commandments or School Honor Code.</p> <p>Applied Ethics Anim3: Deals with specific issues or choices such as these listed... It seems that most people love to jump directly into applied ethics and debate specific issues such as capital punishment, abortion, recreational drug use, etc. However, they usually end up in a stalemate arguing over which moral code of right and wrong best applies. Anim4: There is a hidden question to any moral code: <i>Who or what is the authority for the moral code that we judge things by?</i></p> <p>Meta-Ethics Anim5: That's where Meta-Ethics comes in. Meta-Ethics deals with Who or What is the Standard for the Code...God, Life, State, etc.</p>
7	<p>* For example: Someone states that Abortion is wrong based on the ten commandments. * The real question is the hidden authority needing to be understood: <i>Says who?</i></p>
8	<p>* Many religious persons say abortion is wrong according to the Ten Commandments given by God. * The Bible says it, I believe it, that settles it.</p>
9	<p>* Only it doesn't settle it...There are those who claim Abortion is Right Based on Civil Rights * <i>Who says civil rights settles it?</i> * The State...Based on if it is legal it is just...My Life, My body, My Rights, My Choice</p>
10	<p>* We then end up in a conflict between Religious Beliefs and Civil Rights. * God in conflict with State * Similar mappings can be done through all of the other issues. * In the end, the real battle is in Meta-Ethics</p>
11	<p>* To better understand the battle going on in Meta-Ethics, take the example of Kitchen appliances. * When you go to the store to buy an appliance, you expect to get an owner's manual with it telling you how to operate it.</p>

	<p>Law of Identity = Each appliance has its own unique set of attributes and purpose giving the appliance its identity. A refrigerator cools things, an oven heats things, washers wash things.</p> <p>Law of Non-Contradiction = Contradictory statements cannot both be true AND false in the same sense at the same time. Something cannot both be a refrigerator and not a refrigerator.</p> <p>Law of Excluded Middle = Of two contradictory propositions which are negatives of each other, one must be true, and the other false. There is not a true third "middle-ground" state.</p>
12	<p>What if when you bought your freezer, they give you a dozen different manuals saying "No one really knows how to use it...Some people store books in it, some throw their garbage in it...Some use it as a clothes closet...Just pick and choose from all of these manuals whatever suits you best. There is some good and bad in all of them."</p>
13	<p>If that is unacceptable for appliances, why should we think it acceptable for humans?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * We have a huge problem because this is how Ethics is usually taught. * A smorgasbord of theories is generally presented, describing the strengths and weaknesses of each. * The student is directed to pick and choose to decide for themselves which parts of the various theories suits them best. * Professors may end up teaching a dozen different competing ethical theories, examining the benefits and pitfalls of each, but not able to take an actual stand professing truth for any single one for fear that they will be labeled as indoctrinating.
14	<p>The good news is that all of these Meta-Ethics variations come down to essentially two competing versions: Duty Ethics and Value Ethics</p>
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Duty Ethics were set out from Kant & Plato... * Value Ethics derive from Aristotle. <p>Anim1: Duty Ethics are "Categorical Imperatives" meaning morally you MUST do them...ALWAYS...Independent of what you think about it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Duty Ethics are based on what is called "Deontology" which are a set of morally binding rules independent of the situation. * (deon = Greek meaning: obligation, duty) <p>Anim2: Value Ethics are "Hypothetical Imperatives" meaning that your reason is applied to the conditions you face within the context of your goals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Value Ethics are based on what is called Teleology which is an explanation within the context of a larger goal. * (telos = Greek: end, goal, purpose + logos = Greek reason, explanation) <p>Anim3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * In Duty Ethics...Morality and Righteousness become an End in itself (independent of you, me, or anyone else). * Your own reason or happiness has nothing to do with it...you become commanded in all things and you simply obey. (D&C 56:26 a slothful servant being commanded in all things) * Ought in Duty Ethics means that the morality of Duty is based solely on your will or DESIRE to follow the rules, with actual outcomes being only a secondary consideration. * Cause and Effect are of no consequence. <p>Anim4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * In Value Ethics...Morality and Righteousness are a means to an end...They are the vehicle for reaching a much larger goal. * Ought in Value Ethics means hypothetically IF you want to gain a value you ought to do something. * In Value Ethics, the actions you OUGHT perform are based on the CONDITIONS required for ACHIVING your desired LIFE...

	<p>* You use your God given reason to comply with the conditions of your own salvation (or not) according to the conditions required by reality for achieving Eternal Life. (Philippians 2:12-13)</p> <p>* Cause and effect are the whole point.</p> <p>*Notice the Will (consciousness independent of outcome) and Life (existence dependent on outcome)</p>
16	<p>Quote Gordon H. Clark...Know the Why.</p> <p>Anim1: Teleological Ethics deals with morality from the perspective of the end purpose...</p> <p>* It is a hypothetical imperative based on conditions.</p> <p>* We will use it to evaluate Good-Evil, Right-Wrong, Virtue-Vice from a cause and effect.</p> <p>Anim2: Aristotle's 4 Causes</p>
17	<p>* To illustrate Aristotle's 4 causes, we are going to use the example of Building a Dog House</p> <p>Anim1: The First question is ... What is it made of?</p> <p>Anim2: Material Cause...Everything is made out of materials.</p> <p>* Imagine building a doghouse (or anything) with no materials, no wood, nails, sheet metal, etc.</p> <p>Anim3: The Second question is ... How is it made?</p> <p>Anim4: Efficient Cause...Someone does it, using tools.</p> <p>* Imagine building a doghouse (or anything) without the skills of a builder or tools to work with.</p> <p>Anim5: The Third question is ... What is being made?</p> <p>Anim6: Formal Cause...What is the form or pattern used to make it.</p> <p>* Imagine building a doghouse (or anything) without any form, pattern, plans or idea to follow for what is being made.</p> <p>Anim7: The Fourth question is ... Why is it made?</p> <p>Anim8: Final Cause...Purpose or End.</p> <p>Imagine building a doghouse (or anything) for no reason or purpose.</p> <p>Anim9: The 4 causes taken together give a Full Explanation.</p>
18	<p>ETERNALISMS 4 Ethical Primacy issues follow the 4 causes in the making of an Eternal Life.</p> <p>Anim1: Formal Cause...Life/Love = Describes the standard or “yard stick” by which we measure all our rational decisions and actions.</p> <p>* Duty ethics claims that love for others is the universal standard of morality.</p> <p>* Value ethics claims that the requirements of life is the universal standard of morality.</p> <p>Anim2: Material Cause...Self/Others = Describes who is the primary beneficiary of the standard.</p> <p>* Duty ethics claims that for an action to be considered moral, it should be done with love for others and no thought for self.</p> <p>* Value ethics claims that all actions are based on personal values according to the person’s own life.</p> <p>Anim3: Efficient Cause...Good/Right = Describes the code, or plan to follow for achieving the standard.</p> <p>* Duty ethics claims that virtues, or doing what is right, is an absolute rule whether it is good for us or not.</p> <p>* Value ethics claims that a knowledge of good and evil values, or pursuing the good, precedes an understanding of right and wrong virtues.</p> <p>Anim4: Final Cause...Happiness/Duty = Describes the end goal or purpose for all our desires and actions.</p> <p>* Duty ethics claims happiness has nothing to do with doing one’s duty, and that duty is its own reward.</p> <p>* Value ethics claims that happiness is the whole reason for the standard, and if mankind truly has moral agency, then the only person whose happiness can be controlled is our own.</p>

	<p>Anim5: In the coming Ethics modules we will go through each of these tracks in detail, and see how some people jump the tracks.</p>
19	Questions? Rating?