

Lesson 4

Notes

- Morality is a private choice—Craig Price (convicted serial killer)
- “Take any vicious action...willful murder, for instance. Examine it in all lights, and see if you can find that matter of fact, or real existence, which you call vice...you can never find it till you turn your reflection into your own breast and find a sentiment of disapproval, which arises in you, toward this action. Here is a matter of fact, but ‘tis the object of feeling, not reason.”

David Hume

- **Ethical Subjectivism**

- Sometimes called
- This means that people can never be mistaken about what is morally right or wrong because there are no objective or universal moral standards or truths only opinions

- **Opinion**

Problem

- People have different opinions, but where morality is concerned, there are no _____ and no one is _____. People just feel differently about things and that’s all there is to it.

- Ethical Subjectivism

- According to this theory, there is no such thing as _____

What Ethical Subjectivism Is Not

- Tolerance—

- Ethical Skepticism

- Emotivism

Comparing Three Ethical Theories			
	Ethical Skepticism	Emotivism	Ethical Subjectivism
Is there an agreement on a set of objective standards for resolving moral differences?			
Is there convincing evidence for objective standards?			
Moral statements are...			
Is there a truth value?			
What is truth based upon?			
Overall Conclusion			

The Kitty Genovese Syndrome

- Ethical theories _____
- They are to inform and motivate our _____
- **Values Clarification**

- **Nihilism**

A Critique

1.

2.

3.

4.

Conclusion

Moral thinking and moral conduct involve weighing reasons and being guided by them. However, being guided by reason is very different from following one's feelings. When we have strong emotions, we may be tempted to ignore reason and go with the feelings. However, in doing so, we would opt out of moral thinking altogether. This is why Ethical Subjectivism seems to be going in the wrong direction by focusing on attitudes and feelings.