



What Should I Do?

Over the years, humans have come up with different ways of working out how to decide the right thing to do. Here are some of the main approaches:

Egoism

“I will do what is best for me”

Right and wrong is decided by working out what will give me the most good things and the least bad things.

Utilitarianism

“I will do whatever gives the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people”

Right and wrong is decided by calculating what will give the greatest happiness to the greatest number of people.

Naturalism

“I will do whatever comes naturally”

Right and wrong is decided by working out what is natural for us as human beings; if it is natural it is right, if it is unnatural it is wrong.

Cultural Relativism

“I will do what everyone else around me is doing”

Right and wrong is decided by looking at the way that others in my culture are behaving and fitting in with it. This will be different for different cultures and at different times.

Emotivism

“I will do what my emotions tell me to do”

Right and wrong is decided by following our emotions: whatever our feelings tell us is the right thing to do.

Theism

“I will do what God tells me to do”

Right and wrong is decided by finding out what our creator tells us we should do.