

Abstract

Moral Arrogance and Moral Theories

Moral arrogance involves refusing to acknowledge that for some controversial moral issues there be a morally acceptable solution other than the one that you favor. This does not mean that a person must be morally indifferent with regard to different solutions; rather, it means that for some controversial moral issues, equally informed impartial rational persons will disagree about what morally should be done. Many philosophers seem to hold that an adequate moral theory must provide unique correct answers to every moral question. Although most moral theories either claim or suggest that they do provide such unique correct answers, none of them can actually do, because some moral problems do not have unique correct answers. Thus most moral theories mistakenly promote moral arrogance. This is unfortunate because moral arrogance discourages civil and fruitful discussion of controversial moral issues.