

Science and Metaphysics Part IV

Scientific Ethics?

By

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Abstract

The following six controversies, which form a basic set of ethical issues, are used as basis for testing the applicability of science to ethics.

Hedonism (Epicurus) v. Nonhedonism (Plato)

Absolutism (Thomas Hobbes) v. Relativism (Thomas Aquinas)

Deontology (Kant) v. Teleology (Aristotle)

Nonconsequentialism v. Consequentialism

Free Will (St. Augustine) v. Determinism

Egoism v. Utilitarianism (John Stuart Mill)

1. Introduction

This is the final paper in a series of four papers, which contend that science is incapable of resolving arguments in metaphysics. Ethics is the philosophy of morality. It is concerned with morally

good and bad character (virtue and vice) and moral decision-making. Behavior is involved. Since all actions have mind as their precursor, the mind is the primary factor in ethics. Science has generally ignored the mind aspect and concentrated on the material aspect of things. Hence science is probably inapplicable to ethics.

The following six controversies, which form a fundamental set of ethical issues, are used as basis for testing the applicability of science to ethics.

Hedonism v. Nonhedonism

Absolutism v. Relativism

Deontology v. Teleology

Nonconsequentialism v. Consequentialism

Free Will v. Determinism

Egoism v. Utilitarianism