

Best Way to Introduce Teachings?

Post by "Cassius" of March 14, 2019 at 10:18 PM

Daniel I agree with Godfrey, and would add this as a summary point:

You wrote --

"Central to Utilitarianism:

- Principle of Maximal Utility: "the greatest happiness for the greatest number", love others as much as yourself
- Consequentialism: Actions are central to morality, morality of action = results of action and tendencies of results from action
- Impartiality: Don't use bias - value others' interests equally.
- Commensurability: Sum consequences of actions to determine whether its good or bad."

I think what I am reading is that you are very focused on the conclusions of the Utilitarian ethics. But to any Utilitarian who asserted these positions to me, I would ask this:

WHY?

WHY should the greatest happiness for the greatest number be considered a good goal?

WHY should I love others as much as yourself ? (Which in general I do fully reject 😊)

WHY should I not be biased and value random people's interest as high as my own?

WHY should the SUM consequences determine whether something is good or bad? Why not just the consequences that effect me and my family and friends? Why should I care at all about someone who is neither a family nor a friend nor has any contact with me and them? By what standard is anything good or bad?

Also of those are deep philosophical questions that will vary depending on whether there is a heaven or hell, whether there is a god handing out rules, whether there is some ideal set of regulations somewhere to which I should conform, and on and on....with questions of epistemology also (how do I know any of this is true? how do I know that there is a truth?)

I don't know that "Utilitarianism" answers any of those questions for us, does it?