

Dolores Christie, *Moral Choice: A Christian View of Ethics* (Fortress Press, 2013)

DEONTOLOGY AND TELEOLOGY  
CONNECTIONS AND DIFFERENCES

(Chapter 4)

There are two polar approaches to a philosophical methodology for moral decision making.

**Deontology:** what is right is that which conforms to duty

**Teleology:** what is right conforms to good in consequences

Deontology:

Kantian thinking (perfect duties)

Ross (prima facie duties)

Social contract

Rousseau; Hobbes, Locke

Rawls

Divine command

Ecclesiastical positivism

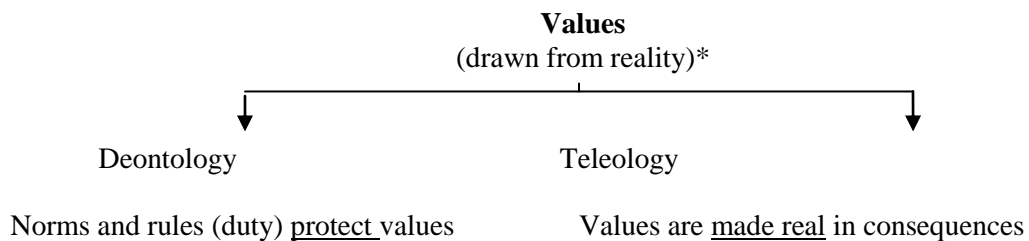
Teleology:

Natural Law

Proportional thinking

Common good

Nevertheless, both systems and their variants are rooted in an *objective* component of value:



\*Note that philosophical theories assume that human beings, through reason, are capable of discovering the good in reality (human love is nourishing to human growth, hatred is not; health is good for people, illness is not; mushrooms make a good and nutritional salad, toadstools do not). This idea is congruent with Catholic anthropology.

Nevertheless, because of human limitations (see chapter 5), human beings may individually or collectively choose as value something that is not (infant sacrifice to the gods) or be slow in finding a value that is real (freedom and basic rights for all human beings). Therefore, the objective culture--reality as we are able to know it because of our own biases or our time and place in history--is not a complete set of all the values that might be.