

The Categorical Imperative by Emmanuel Kant

What I expect to learn:

I expect to learn the principles of categorical imperative and also its effects on humanity.

Quote:

"It is impossible to conceive anything at all in the world, or even out of it, which can be taken as good without qualification, except a good will"

Book Review:

In this book Emmanuel Kant talks about the categorical imperative and good will. So what is categorical imperative? It helps us to know which actions are obligatory and which are forbidden, in other words categorical imperative is what ought to be done. Categorical imperative is bounded by rules of humanity and using instinct as a determinant of what actions are acceptable and what is not. Kant also tackled a different kind of imperative which is "Hypothetical imperative". This imperative is conditional meaning an action is driven by a desired result. An instance of hypothetical imperative is a teenager helping his mom out in the family business because he wants something in return, like a new pair of shoes. This imperative is not good because of the presence of self interest which sometimes makes the means to achieve the desired end result appalling. Good will as we all know is a disposition of kindness and compassion towards other people (strangers or non-strangers). A simple yet very meaningful example of an act of good will is *"giving food to the hungry"*. Good will is a nature of a person that leads him/her in doing what is the right course of action in given situation that needs moral judgment. Being a person of good will doesn't have qualifications because anyone (rich or poor) who is conscious of his/her surroundings can be a person of such value.

What I have learned:

By being consciousness of his/her surroundings, a person can develop good will.

Integrative questions:

- 1) What is categorical imperative?
- 2) What is a hypothetical imperative?
- 3) What is the difference between the two?
- 4) Do all people have good will?
- 5) How can good will be developed?