

**Title:** Who Defines Right and Wrong? An Anthropological Take on Morality

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Morality is critical for establishing a structured society. It determines right and wrong for the society. This presentation explores the significance of morality in culture from an anthropological perspective. Examples of culture may include language, religion, rituals, and mannerisms. These are often related to morality, which is implemented in every society and allows us to categorize our actions, claiming they are “good” or “bad”. There are two main categories that fall under the umbrella of morality: objective and non-objective. Objective morality states that actions are right and wrong. Non-objective morality states that no actions are objectively right or wrong but vary upon the beliefs of the individual or group. The question that has been debated since the beginning of time: Which theory is correct? This study explains how Cultural relativism, a non-objectivist theory, may seem to justify the actions of a society, where other moral theories may not. It will also illustrate how this view may be harmful to many groups. An argument against Utilitarianism and an argument for Kantianism will be proposed. Both are objective theories; however, Kantianism aligns with the belief of many anthropologists. Anthropologists propose that an action is morally wrong when it harms another person or group. Kantianism states that an action itself is right or wrong. This view is heavily impacted by Kant’s “categorical imperative”, which states that an action is wrong if you justify it for yourself but wouldn’t want others to do it to you. We know this as “The Golden Rule.”

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