

Ima
Supernaturalist

Supernaturalism: “X is good”
means “God desires X.”

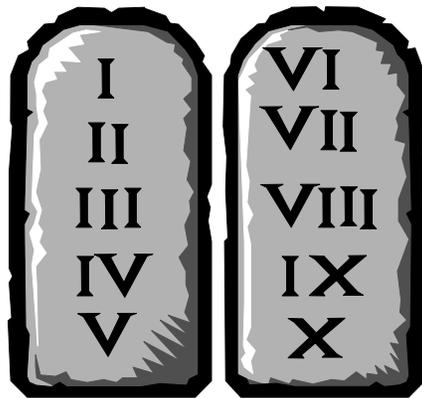
Pick out your moral principles
by following God’s will.



Ima's road to supernaturalism

Her drug problem: how CR and SB
can ruin your life.

Her ethics course: problems with IO.



Biblical
norms

The ten commandments.

“Love God and neighbor” and “Treat others as you want to be treated.”

Love of God and neighbor in Islam

“Show kindness and do good to parents, relatives, and orphans – to the near neighbor and the distant neighbor who is a stranger – to the companion by your side and the traveler that you meet.”

(Qur’an 4:36)

“It proposed, based on verses from the Holy Qur’an and the Holy Bible, that Islam and Christianity share the twin ‘golden’ commandments of loving God and loving one’s neighbor. Based on this, it called for peace and harmony between Christians and Muslims worldwide.”

(www.acommonword.com)

How can we know God's will?

Bible

Prayer

Church

Reason

Or maybe we can't know God's will?

Or maybe we should combine
these answers?



Opposing principles about war

<http://bible.gospelcom.net/bible?passage=LEV+24:17-21>

<http://bible.gospelcom.net/bible?passage=MT+5:38-39,43-45>

- *Retaliation*: If someone harms us, we should harm them in the same way.
- *Just-War View*: Killing in self-defense is permissible; but it's wrong to kill an innocent human being.
- *Pacifism*: Killing a human being is *always* wrong.

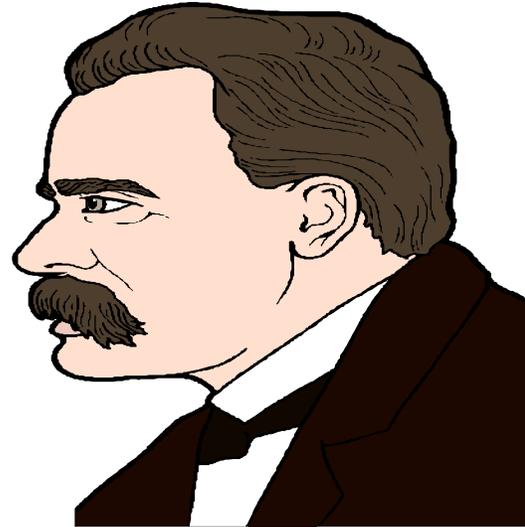
Practical implications of SN

- Since values are objective, we take them seriously.
- Morality is closely tied to religion.
- Atheists are confused about morality.

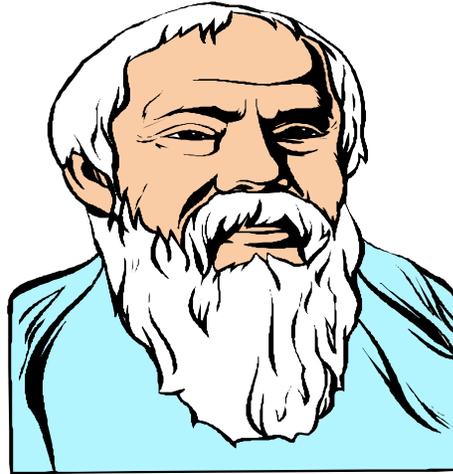
Ima argues to SN from

- belief in the Bible,
- belief in God, and
- belief in objective duties.

One problem with
supernaturalism



How can atheists
make moral judgments?



Socrates's question

Is something good *because God desires it*?

Or does God desire it *because it's good*?

Even without SN,
religion can add
much to morality.



Believers have

- additional ways to know moral truths,
- additional motives to be moral, and
- a world-view that better supports morality.