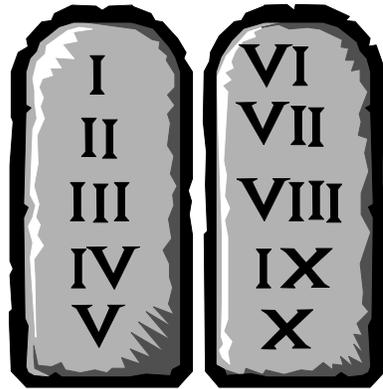


Ima
Supernaturalist

Supernaturalism (SN): “X is good” means “God desires X.”

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



Biblical
norms

The ten commandments.

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

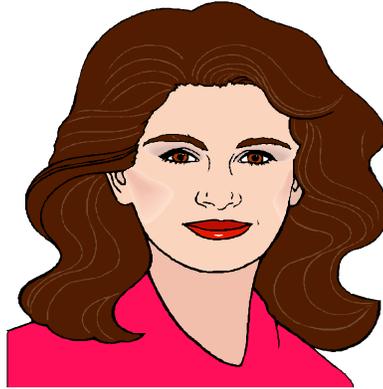
Many moral ideas are common across various religions; for example, loving God and neighbor are also important in Islam:

“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.”

<http://www.acommonword.com>



Ima's road to supernaturalism

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

Her ethics course: problems with IO.

Ima's arguments for SN

- *Bible*: The Bible teaches SN.
- *Sovereignty*: All laws of every sort depend on God's will.
- *Source*: God is the only workable source of objective moral duties.

How can we know God's will?

Bible	Church
Prayer	Reason
Maybe we can't know God's will.	
Or combine these answers?	



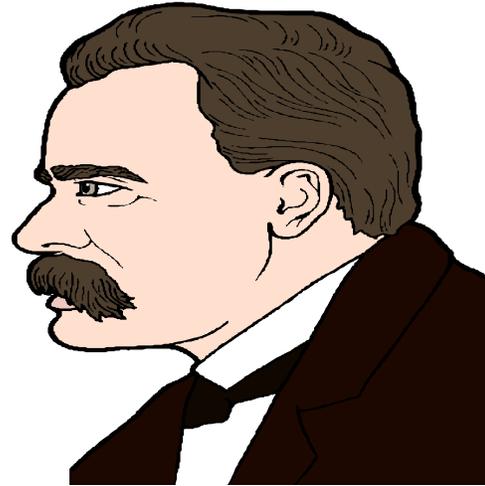
The Bible can often be interpreted in different ways

- *Retaliation*: If someone harms us, we should harm them the same way. <http://bible.gospelcom.net/bible?passage=LEV+24:17-21>
- *Just-War*: Killing in self-defense is permissible; but it's wrong to kill an innocent human being.
- *Pacifism*: Killing a human being is *always* wrong, even in self-defense. <http://bible.gospelcom.net/bible?passage=MT+5:38-39,43-45>

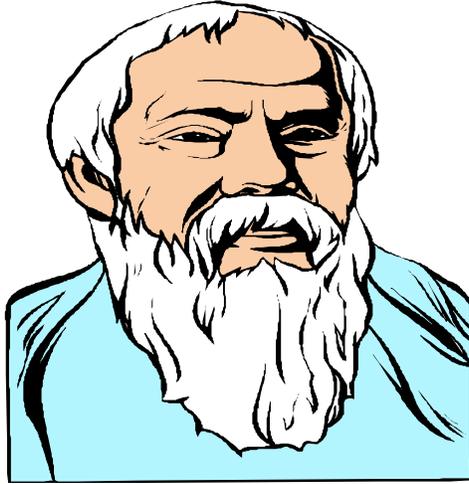
Practical implications of SN

- Values are objective, and thus taken seriously.
- Morality is closely tied to religion (for example, there are strong religious motives to be moral).
- Atheists are confused about morality.

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?*

Against SN arguments

- *Bible*: The Bible doesn't really teach SN.
- *Sovereignty*: Maybe "x=x" and "Cruelty is wrong" don't depend on God's will.
- *Source*: Maybe "x=x" and "Cruelty is wrong" are true in themselves and need no source.

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.

Modified supernaturalism

Some define “good action” as “action desired by a wise and loving God” – or perhaps “action desired by the highest available wisdom and love.”

Some instead claim that *the property of being a good action* = the property of being desired by a wise and loving God.

Supernatural virtues

Many Christians accepted the main Greek virtues (wisdom, courage, self-control, and justice) – but added three supernatural virtues oriented toward supernatural happiness:

- **Faith** is believing in God and what he reveals.
- **Hope** is emotionally trusting in God and his promises.
- **Love** is striving to serve God and, as part of this service, to do good and not harm to his creatures.