

## Judgement (Moral and Soul Making Arguments)

---

### The Moral Argument

- The Moral Argument is one often used by some Christians to explain their belief in God.
  - There have been several forms of this argument created to explain the belief in God, but the main one was made by a man called Cardinal John Newman (1801-1890).
  - He said that our sense of guilt came from the voice of God speaking through what most people consider their conscience; it was God who enabled each person to know right from wrong.
  - When people do something wrong, they feel it, John Newman described this as God making you feel guilty about what you have done, he says you can choose to ignore it.
  - You can ignore this feeling of guilt because you have free will, we know that free will is a real thing because evil still happens despite this argument taking action.
  - He argues that God's voice within is more a reminder that we are not only responsible for ourselves, but responsible according to his rules, without him, there is no conscience.
- 

### The Soul-Making Argument and Judgement

- The philosopher and theologian John Hick said our behaviour in this life affects our behaviour in the afterlife, after we die. He said that humans have to make decisions about what is right.
- He also set out to determine the purpose of evil and suffering. He said that evil and suffering are designed by God as opportunities for different people to act more like God in their actions.
- He also said that God made suffering in such a way that they can become more like God who is perfect, since humans cannot be perfect, then the process is continuous, even after death.
- The part of the argument that is important is that through making moral decisions, that are conscious and not forced, then a person's soul will develop to be more like God.
- However, most Christians disagree with this philosophy because it suggests humans are not judged after death as they are constantly improving.
- They say it is a key belief in Christianity that human souls will go to Heaven or to Hell after they die, and so it is impossible to still improve. Though Catholics may agree because of Purgatory.
- All Christians do believe though that a person's moral decisions and conscious behaviour will affect how they are judged by God after death, such as they go to Heaven or Hell.

- They say that explicit proof of judgement is found in the book of Matthew with the parable of the Sheep and the Goats, where God separates on the love and compassion they have shown.
- The parable suggests that it is impossible to love Jesus unless your love is reflected in your actions towards others. Like helping the poor and the needy.
- Those who acted kindly in ways like giving food to the poor and visiting prisoners were rewarded with an afterlife in Heaven, those who weren't kind are banished from God forever (to Hell).
- Two quotations (one from Timothy and the other from Corinthians) summarise how important acting well in the presence of God (everywhere) is:
  - 'The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith' – 1 Timothy 1:5
  - 'Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world and especially in our relations with you, with integrity and Godly sincerity' – 2 Corinthians 1:2
- By listening to your conscience and being guided by the holy spirit, people are better able to make good decisions and live lives that are judged positively by God.