

Divine Command Theory

Euthyphro dilemma

- A. Does God command us to do certain acts because they are right,
- OR
- B. are some acts right because God commands us to do them?

A. God command us to do certain acts because they are right

- If so, then Divine Command Theory is false. DCT holds that acts are right because God commands them, and not the other way around.

B. Some acts are right because God commands us to do them

- If at least some acts are right *only* because God commands them, then DCT faces an arbitrariness problem (see next slide).

DCT seems to imply that God is arbitrary

1. Acting without reasons is arbitrary.
2. God commands without reasons [Necessarily implied by DCT: An action is right only because God commands it, and not for any other reason]
3. Therefore, God commands arbitrarily.