

What's your Morality Like?

Moral Position	In a nutshell	How it affects witches
Nihilism	There is no right and wrong	Witch-burning is neither right nor wrong
Subjectivism	Right and wrong are relative to (dependent upon) the particular beliefs of each individual	You might think witch-burning is ok and therefore it is!
Cultural Relativism	Right and wrong are relative to (dependent upon) the particular beliefs of one's culture.	Middle age society considered witch-burning ok, so it was!
Moral Egoism	An act is morally right only if it promotes one's own interests.	By doing some witch-burning you may get elected, so its ok!
Divine Command	An act is right only if it is in accordance with God's commands or wishes.	Well, I think we know about this one and witch-burning – torches on standby!
Utilitarianism	An act is right only if it maximizes the amount of pleasure or happiness in the world.	You enjoy a good witch-burning, so its ok
Kantianism	An act is right only if it follows from "pure reason" and the principles of fairness which follow from it.	What if your 'pure-reason' is based upon a false premise? Oops – you've gotten into witch-burning!
Contractarianism	An act is right only if it follows from principles that a society agrees to.	Bill 244, the witch-burning bill says it ok, so it must be
Intuitionism	An act is right if it accords to our "moral sense" or "intuitions" about moral rightness.	Who tells you that witch-burning is ok, the church, the government?

- Would it be justifiable to whip pigs to death if more succulent pork resulted from this process, giving the consumers of pork more pleasure?
- You run an orphanage and have had a hard time making ends meet. A car dealership offers you a new van worth £15,000 for free if you will falsely report to the government that the dealership donated a van worth £30,000. You really need the van and it will give you an opportunity to make the children happy. Do you agree to take the van?
- The police are guarding the courthouse against a mob that is about to storm it by force, in order to capture a prisoner and kill him even before his trial. If the mob is frustrated, many people may be killed in the ensuing riot. Should the police deliver the prisoner to the mob?
- A pregnant woman leading a group of people out of a cave on a coast gets stuck in the mouth of that cave. In a short time, high tide will be upon them, and unless she is unstuck, they will all be drowned except the pregnant woman, whose head is out of the cave. But, fortunately, or unfortunately, someone has with him a stick of dynamite. There seems no way to get the woman loose without using [that] dynamite which will inevitably kill both woman and unborn child; but if they do not use it everyone will drown. What should they do?
- Tom, hating his wife and wanting her dead, puts poison in her coffee, thereby killing her. Jane also hates her husband and would like him dead. One day her husband accidentally puts poison in his own coffee, thinking it is cream. Jane realises this, and has the antidote that could save him, but does not hand it over and her husband dies. Is Jane's failure to act as bad as Tom's action?