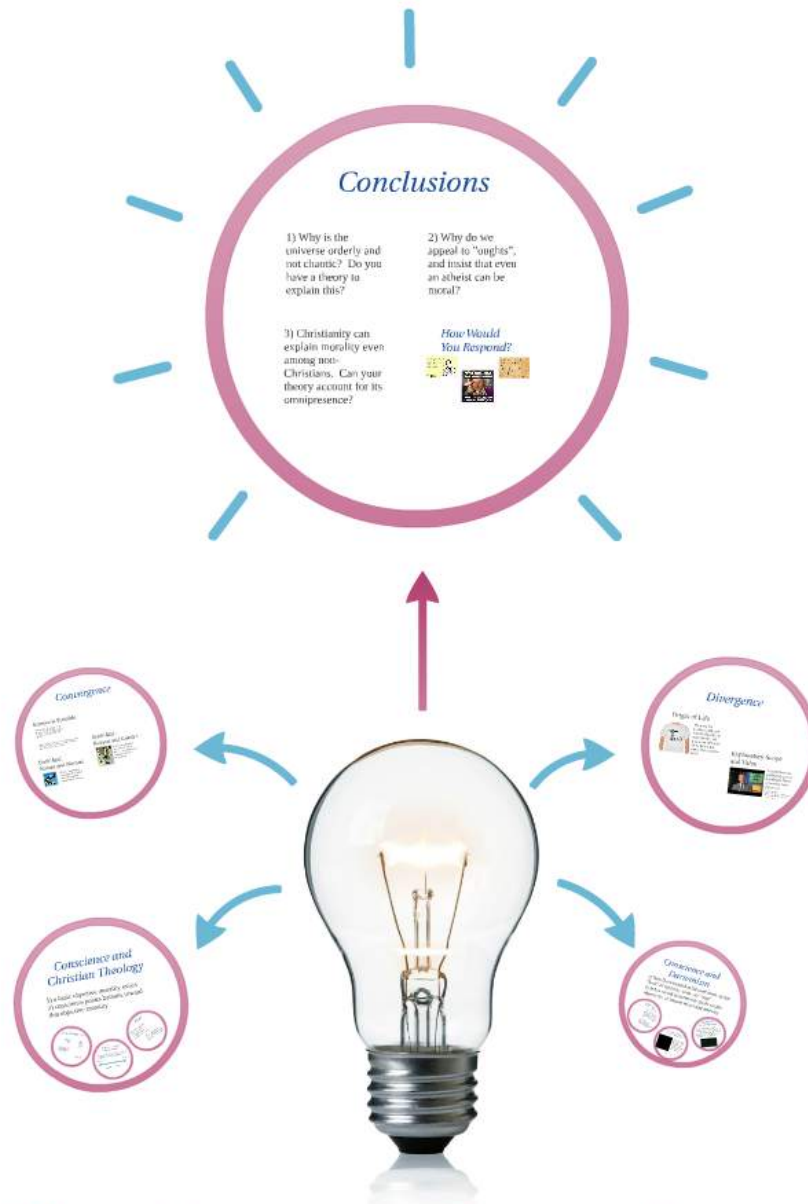


The Human Conscience

Part 3

Charles St-Onge



The Human Conscience


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Charles St-Onge

Conscience and Christian Theology

- 1) a basic objective morality exists
- 2) conscience points humans toward that objective morality

Basic Christian Ideas



- All humans have some moral sense
- It is only as bad as we make it
- It can point to divine realities
- Conscience can be trained - and hurt

Instinct vs Reason
Which predominates?

Christianity has fallen on both ends and in the middle of this debate, as has science.

Reason ←→ Instinct

Aquinas Luther

Issues

Does God will what is "good," or is something good because God wills it?

How come moral behavior still differs so much across cultures?



Basic Christian Ideas



All humans
have some
moral sense



It can
point to
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realities

Tertullian, Aquinas, modern Roman Catholicism



It is only an
intuition of
right and
wrong

William of Ockham, Luther, modern Protestants



Conscience can be
trained - and lost



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You know that little thing
inside your head that
keeps you from saying
things you shouldn't?

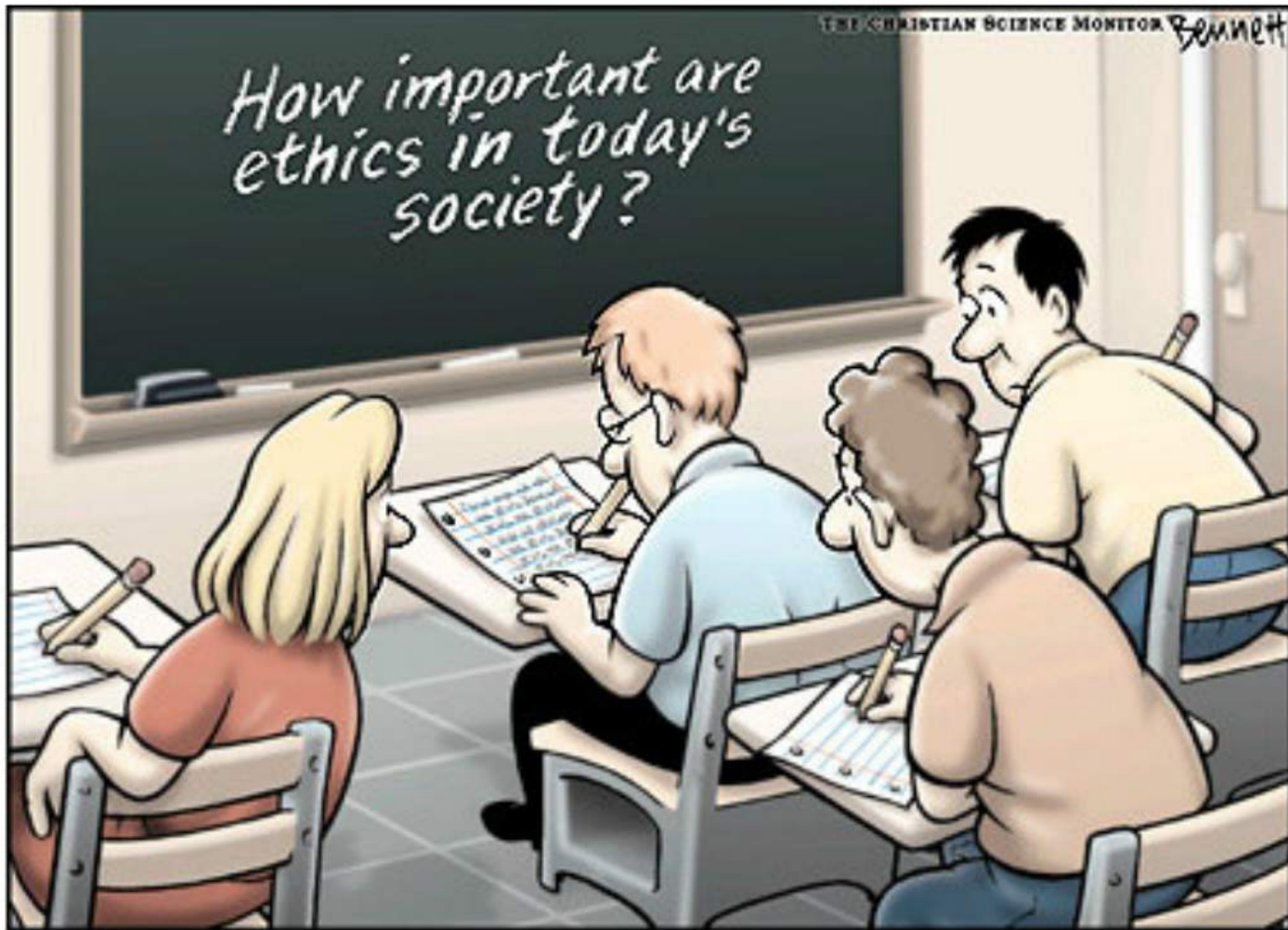
Yeah, I don't have
one of those.

your  cards
someecards.com



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Conscience and Darwinism

- 1) Neo-Darwinism has focused more on the "how" of morality, some on "why"
- 2) It has raised considerable doubt on the objectivity of human ethics and morality

The Brain is an Organic Computer



A person with a functioning conscience is the opposite of someone mentally ill. Once we understand how the brain works, we'll know how conscience works.

But our brain is quite different from our mechanical computers, possibly making use of quantum realities.

The Complex Brain is the Product of Evolution

Atheism

The belief that there was nothing and nothing happened to nothing and they suddenly magically exploded for no reason, creating everything and then a bunch of them for no reason what so ever into self replicating bits which then turned into dinosaurs.

Makes perfect sense.

Source: Kall
http://www.kall.com/...
http://www.kall.com/...
http://www.kall.com/...

The hardware of the brain evolved simultaneously with the software - like conscience - that runs on it.

Morality is a Survival Program

Those things which enable us to survive gets passed on. Therefore if we have morality, it is only a survival mechanism programmed into us by evolution. It is not "truth."



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Scientific Aside

Understanding how the brain works, how our nervous system works, how electricity works, is very useful. That understanding directly benefits technology.

Understanding how those systems got to be that way has no true scientific, but rather only philosophical, value.

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Convergence

Science is Possible

As long as the laws of nature were rooted in God, their existence was no more remarkable than that of matter, which God also created. But if the divine underpinning is removed, their existence becomes a profound mystery. Where do they come from?...Who devised the code? - Paul Davies



Science

Science presupposes an orderly world whose functioning can be investigated. If there is no order underlying the universe, how can it be investigated?

Both/And: Nature and Nurture



Science and theology now agree that there is a nature and nurture component to morality.

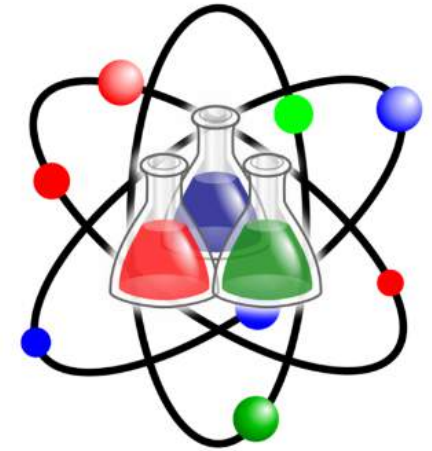
Both/And: Reason and Instinct



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Divergence

Origin of Life



The proof for evolution will come from finding life on other planets. Of course we still won't know how it got there. But it will be proof.

Explanatory Scope and Value



A good theory has explanatory power. Evolution's theory of morality lacks that power.

- China Daily news
- What "morality" are we looking for?
- Science can ultimately offer no "why", only a "how"

Origin of Life



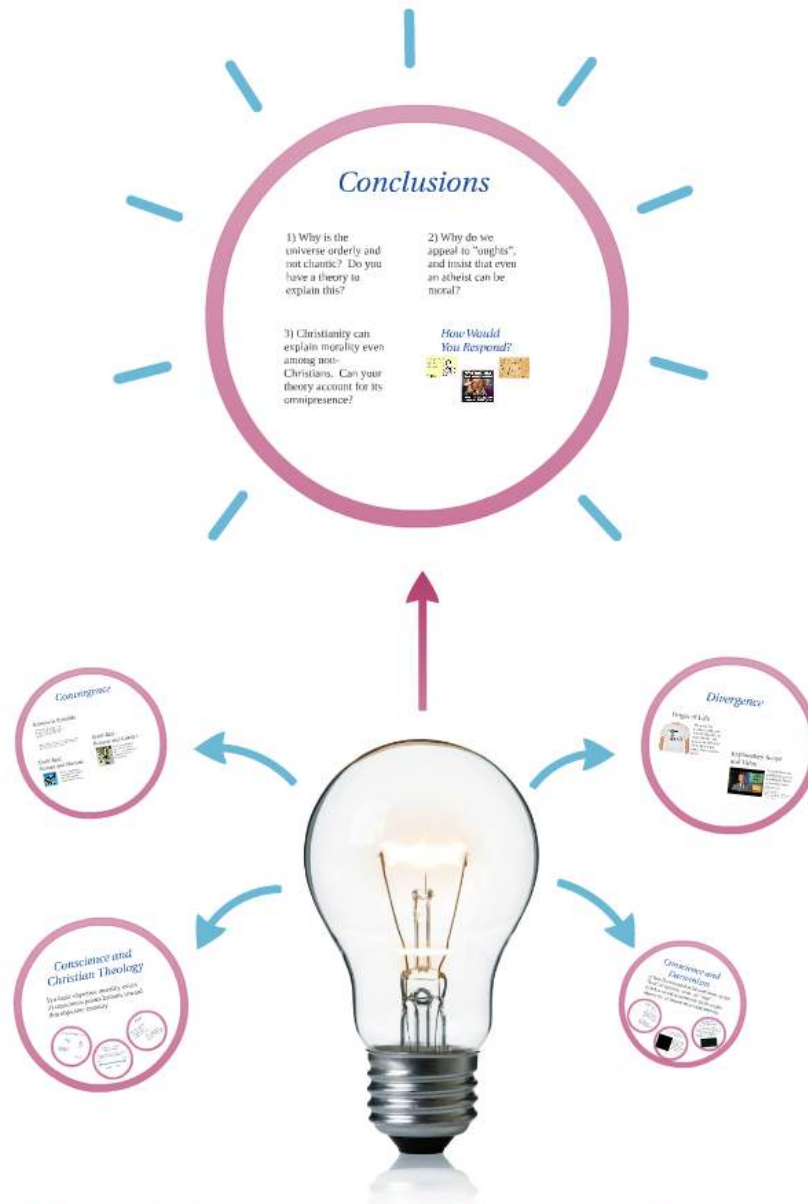
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Conclusions

1) Why is the universe orderly and not chaotic? Do you have a theory to explain this?

2) Why do we appeal to "oughts", and insist that even an atheist can be moral?

3) Christianity can explain morality even among non-Christians. Can your theory account for its omnipresence?

*How Would
You Respond?*

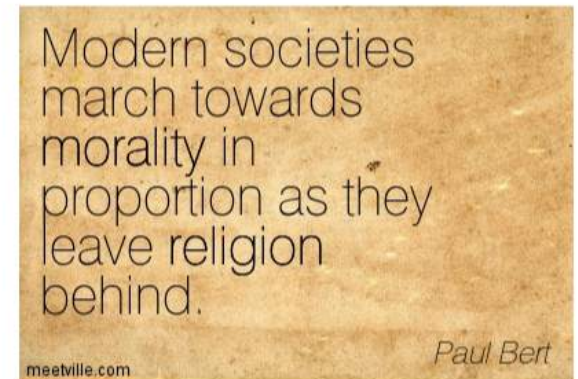
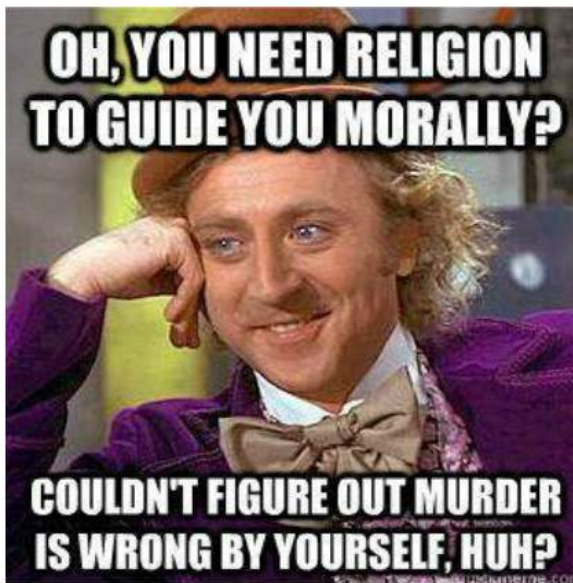
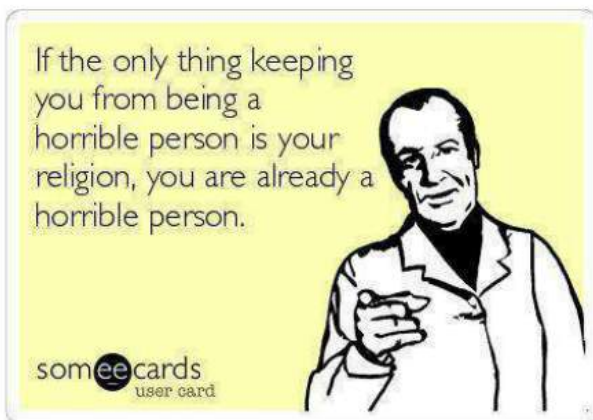


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How Would You Respond?



If the only thing keeping
you from being a
horrible person is your
religion, you are already a
horrible person.



somee cards
user card

A meme featuring Gene Wilder as Gene the Bartender from the movie "The Sandlot". He is wearing a brown hat, a purple jacket, and a brown bow tie, with his hand resting on his chin in a thoughtful or smug expression. The background is a blurred indoor setting.

**OH, YOU NEED RELIGION
TO GUIDE YOU MORALLY?**

**COULDN'T FIGURE OUT MURDER
IS WRONG BY YOURSELF, HUH?**

Modern societies
march towards
morality in
proportion as they
leave religion
behind.

Paul Bert