

Immanuel Kant's Ethical System

Morals are Objective.

The Three fundamental elements in Kant's Moral System:

1. Individuals are rational beings; that is, people have the ability to make choices on the basis of reason and to act on the choices.
2. Individuals have an intrinsic value; that is, people have value in and of themselves. In other words, individuals are ends also, not means only.
3. Individuals are the author of the moral law; that is, individuals are autonomous.

Categorical Imperative: "Act only on the maxim which you can at the same time will that it should be a universal law."

Or, "Act in such a way that you always treat humanity, whether in your own person or in the person of any other, never simply as a means, but always at the same time as an end."

The "kingdom of ends"

Kant believed that, if in society, human beings freely obey the categorical imperative, we would have an ideal community – a utopia.