

## **Examine the views of scholars concerning the view that Religion and Morality are linked**

The idea that Religion and Morality are linked can be questioned with certain individuals having their own opinion and certain religion following their own beliefs on the connection.

Divine command ethics is one of the sole reasons that people believe that religion and morality are linked as divine command ethics is simply rules that God/Jesus has given us to follow and guide us in life, these rules are simply guidance given to us by God but are morally correct which brings us back to the question. The ten commandments was the guidance given to us by God but as we all know none of us can follow the ten commandments as one so simple as “do not lie” is impossible for most of us. This is why confession was invented as it gave us a chance to clear away our sins and be morally correct again and where the link between religion and morality occur.

Morality is simply doing the right thing but doing the right thing for one person can mean another person losing out so it could be argued that morality is not doing the right thing but meaning well in the actions we take and this is what Jesus preached during his time on earth. Many people have different views on morality, Aquinas believes that “Among beings there are some more and some less good, true, noble and the like. But more and less are predicated of different things according as they resemble in their different ways something which is the maximum... so that there is something which is truest, something best, something noblest... Therefore there must also be something which is to all beings the cause of their being, goodness and every other perfection, and this we call God.” Aquinas views are an understandable explanation to how Religion and morality are linked but for religion and Morality to be linked surely we need to be certain that there is a God as with out a God it is impossible for them to link as religion wouldn't matter any more and the ten commandments preached by Jesus would be insignificant and untrustworthy. Morality is knowing what good and bad are but we only know what Good and bad are through Gods actions and preaching's via Jesus.

Kant's ideas were different to other philosophers on that moral and religion were linked; he believed that moral obligations arise even when other people are not involved. Since it would be contradictory to universalize the maxim of taking your own life if it promises more misery than satisfaction. He argued, we have a perfect duty to ourselves not to commit suicide. And since no one would will a universalized maxim of neglecting to develop the discipline required for fulfilling ones natural abilities, we have an imperfect duty to ourselves not to waste our talents.

Other religions have different ideas on why religion and morality are linked; it includes things once again like the Ten Commandments, when Jesus preached “Thou shall not kill” this is a rule through religion but then if Jesus hadn't said this would we go out and kill? Or is this just obvious and should we know this as people already without Jesus telling us? If Jesus wasn't here to base our lives on the ten sacraments then would the world be a crazy life which is where religion and morality are linked.

## **ii) Identify the arguments against the link between religion and morality.**

The main question with the link between religion and morality is are morally good acts willed by God because they are morally good, or are they morally good because they are willed by God. This basically means are morally good things good because they are made by God or does God command good things because they are good. This is where the euthyphro Dilemma comes into place. If god only does things because they are good then surely that is just God using his own free will like any one of us can which would lead us to think that religion and morality are not linked but if God made good and God tells us what Good is then this is a stronger reason for religion and morality to be linked. Going back to God following what is already good this means that God based his decisions on something that was already created; good. Which means Gods commands aren't the source of morality but they are merely a source of information about morality which means Morality itself is not based in divine commands and that Religion and Morality can possibly be linked but shows us that morality was created before God and God did not create all as morality just existed and God followed someone else's decisions.

If God created good then what God commands is completely morally correct, God has no moral reason for commanding as he does and if he did create what was morally wrong and morally right does this mean God created the death and suffering in the world today. If divine command theory was true then he would have created these things to be morally good. However this link between God and him creating moral good leads us to believe that Religion and morality are linked but then leads us to think why are we worshipping a God who is putting suffering on the world. So does this mean God would be a greater God if he created moral good, but put suffering on the world at the same time or would God be greater if he simply followed the moral good which was already correct in the world?

Humans today who follow religions are following the rules (they think) of their Gods. If it turned out that for example referring back to the ten commandments Jesus wasn't Gods son but he was just an ordinary man would this change peoples views over the world and would they think it was madness that they was basing their whole life and what they believe is correct all on one man that lived a long time ago. Surely humans would prefer to believe that their life rules and ways are based on something or someone stronger than another human being otherwise is this not the morally correct thing to do but is it just one persons opinion on what is correct and could we be basing our lives on rules that a few people made up and preached to the world. It would make more sense for humans to follow these guidelines if we knew that they were from someone greater than us, God. Which is why religion and morality are linked as what we follow and base our lives around is preached by God; well at least we think it is.

Critiques have different opinions on the link between religion and morality. Aquinas believes that there is a God who is all good and powerful and that God created morally good things. Kant believed that we should be the best people we can and that we have a duty to God to do the morally correct thing. Religions and theories have different beliefs, the Euthyphro dilemma theory is a good theory but it is still based on questions and doesn't state anything it simply just implies that either God created morally correct actions or he didn't, they was already created when he came. This is the difference between individual people's views and theories, theories

do not contain personal opinion but just question and bring possible solutions to the answers like what the Euthyphro dilemma does but I feel we get more of a definite answer and opinion from critiques statements.

Concluding the question, is religion and morality linked the answer is yes. However we don't know if morality was created and then God linked morality with him because God is good and morality is God, or we don't know if God created morality once again because God is good and so is morality. However we do know that both morality and God are linked and that we follow and base our lives around the right thing to do which is what God preached so even if we don't believe that religion and morality are linked God and the right thing to do is linked which is the same as religion and morality in many peoples opinions. So Religion can be fairly argued that it is linked with morality as why would such a religion preach the wrong thing to do, or if it did then who would follow the morally incorrect thing and as people we believe in morals. The connection between religion and morality is all to do with beliefs.

