



Albert Camus  
(absurdism)

"There is but one truly serious philosophical problem & that is suicide."

## Human suicide

- **Why do humans decide to commit suicide when animals do not?** *It is believed that when animals kill themselves they are acting instinctively, not rationally.*
- **Why do people who seem to have wealth, fame, power, etc. do it?** *Preservation of their DNA is not the problem!*
- **Why do some people become suicide bombers for a religious cause?** *Religious hope is to die for!*

## HUMAN DESPAIR

### MORTALITY

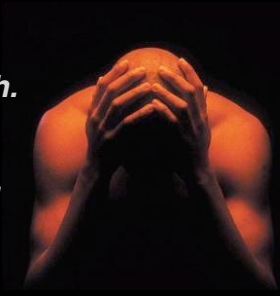
- we seek life and fear death.

### MEANING

- humans need something transcendent to live for.

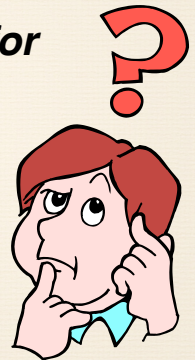
### MORALITY

- humans are hopelessly corrupted.



**Do we have too much to live with and not enough to live for?**

- **A broken world that insults our longing for moral justice!**
- **Broken lives that produce shame and fear!**
- **An unmet hunger for fullness of life!**



• **A bold, honest, echo of the human dilemma.**

- 1965
- Rolling Stones 1st hit in U.S.
- 2nd greatest rock song of all time.



Lily Tomlin (comedian)

"The biggest source of stress in life is reality and those who chose to live in it."

Carl Jung

"Through pride we are ever deceiving ourselves. But deep down below the surface of the average conscience a still, small voice says to us, 'Something is out of tune'."

C.S. Lewis

"Human beings, all over the earth, have this curious idea that they ought to behave in a certain way, and cannot really get rid of it. They also know that they do not behave that way."

**Ecclesiastes 1:2**

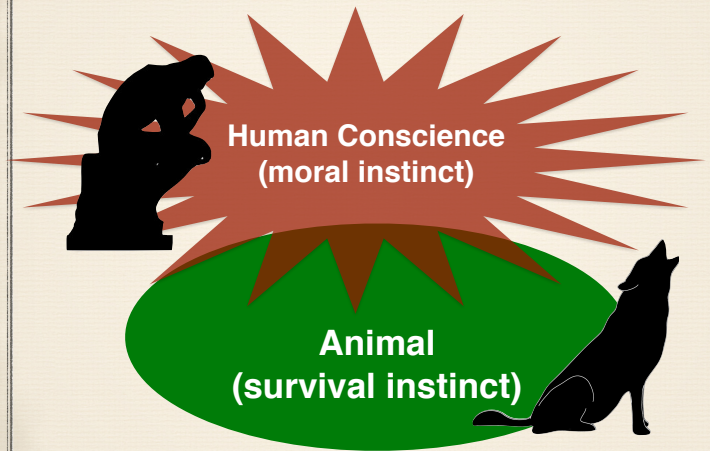
"Vanity of vanities! All is vanity."



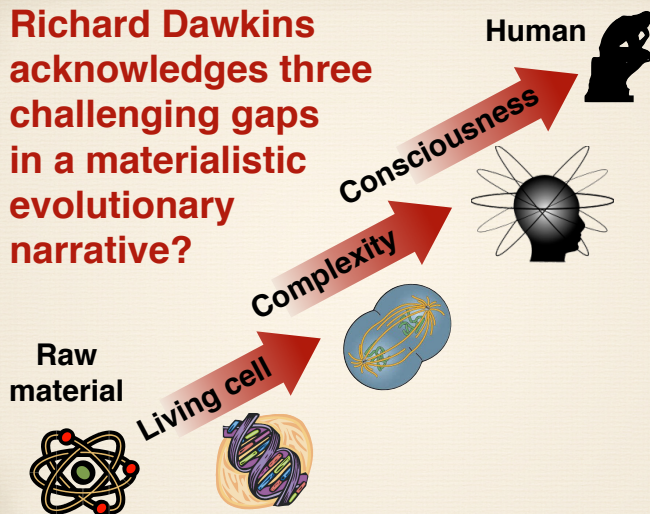
# How do we acquire Ethics?

- *Humans seem hardwired with a longing for moral justice.*
- *The Scripture ties this longing to the embedded image of God in all humans.*
- *This is why all humans display a reasonable (though unrefined) ethical impulse.*

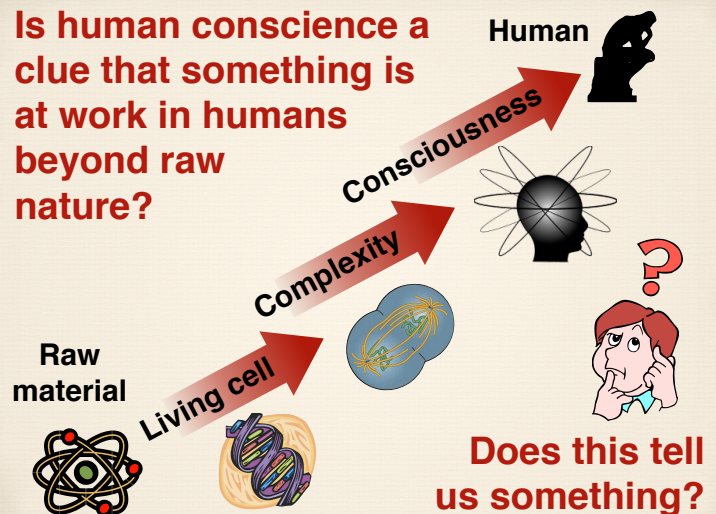
## What distinguishes humans from animals?



**Richard Dawkins acknowledges three challenging gaps in a materialistic evolutionary narrative?**



**Is human conscience a clue that something is at work in humans beyond raw nature?**



# How do we acquire Ethics?

***How do we move from a “natural law” ethic to a Christian ethic?***

## Acts 17

“22 . . . “Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. 23 For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, ‘TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.’ **What therefore you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you** 24 The God who made the world and all things in it. . . 25 . . . He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; . . . 27 that they should seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; 28 for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we also are His offspring.’”



*Paul explains this as a “suppressed truth.”*

*Romans 1*

“18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who **suppress the truth in unrighteousness**, 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. . . . 21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”

*Romans 2*

“<sup>14</sup> For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, <sup>15</sup> in that they show the work of **the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them.**”

*The shadow of God's image is in every human soul as witness to a God who is close to all but unacknowledged by many.*

*A cut flower world view*

- *The unknown god* - *Secular common sense bears witness to hardwired human values, the source of which may be suppressed in our spiritual independence.*



*Knowing  
good & evil*



*but rejecting  
the source*



*C.S. Lewis*

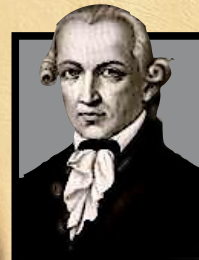
“As an atheist I believed that everything that made my life exciting and worth living was an illusion and that my reality (philosophical materialism) was in the end intolerably boring.”



*C.S. Lewis*

“My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust?”

*Immanuel Kant*



Kant explicitly ties moral duty to the rational need for “a higher moral being”

*Religion, 98*

Social Contract

Utilitarianism

Natural Law

**The light of life**

**Ethics**  
inspired by the imbedded image of God




and made  
clear by the  
revelation  
of the Gospel  
of Christ



**An integrated world view**

- **The unknown god** - *Secular common sense bears witness to hardwired human values, the source of which may be suppressed in our spiritual independence.*
- **The Christian proclamation** - *The basis of all sound ethics is the image of God, which is most fully revealed in the person and work of Jesus Christ.*



*Colossians 1*

“15 And **He is the image of the invisible God**, the first-born of all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things have been created by Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”

*Hebrews 1:3*

“And **He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature**, and upholds all things by the word of His power.”



*Genesis 1:26*

“Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;”

*Acts 17*

“and He (Christ Jesus) is the image of the invisible God.”

**He is the model of what it means to be fully human.**



*Genesis 1:26*

“Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;”

*Ephesians 4:15*

“but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ.”

**He is the model of what it means to be fully human.**



## What does it mean to be a Christian?

**A Christian is a person who is truly human - true to themselves - reconciled to God by faith**

**bearing the image of God in Christ through the power of his Spirit.**



## Colossians 1:27-28

**"Christ in you, the hope of glory. We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that**

**we may present every man complete in Christ."**



## Acts 17

**"30 Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that **all everywhere should repent**, 31 because He has fixed a day in which **He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.**"**

## The moral argument for the existence of God

God

Cosmos

The deep sense of justice.

The need for moral redemption.



## John 1

**"1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. 4 **In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.** 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it."**

**"9 There was the true light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. 12 But **as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,**"**