

Roots of Philosophical Ethics

MARK GREENE
Department of Philosophy
University of Delaware

mkgreene@udel.edu
www.vole.org

Direction of fit




- Is beneficence good because God loves it?
- Or...
 - Does god love beneficence because it is good?
- Compare
 - Belief & desire


Facts & values

• God loves sexual continence

• So what?


 Ought implies can

- Plato thought moral understanding was the preserve of the few.
- How does this sit with Christian demands of virtue for personal salvation?

 UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

Department of Philosophy

Mark Greene
mkgreene@udel.edu

 Philosophy gives the means to speak with apparent authority on all matters, and to make oneself admired by the less learned; while law, medicine and the other sciences bring honor and riches upon their practitioners.

— Rene Descartes, *Discourse on Method*
