

Phil Stilwell There is no actual morality. But I recommend you act empathetic. It makes life go much smoother than acting selfishly.

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Jim Price If there is no such thing as morality, you should have placed a period there and stopped. Everything that follows this claim is irrational.

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Phil Stilwell **Jim Price** no, the fact that there is no morality doesn't mean we can't recommend what works in life. Living life with compassion is much more rational than living an unhappy life in which you mistreat people.

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Jim Price **Phil Stilwell** -- Everything works, Phil.

There's no morality, remember? No morality means there is no such thing as mistreating people, and no such thing as compassion.

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Phil Stilwell **Jim Price** , but perhaps I misunderstood you. Let me confirm. You actually believe that if there is no morality, there can be no compassion nor practical suggestions for a more fulfilling life. Is this a steel-man of your position?

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Jim Price **Phil Stilwell** -- They're not my words, Phil They're yours. You said, quote unquote, "There is no actual morality".

So let's look at that definition:

Morality
concerning the distinction between right and wrong or good and bad behavior.

If there's no morality, then logically it follows that there is no "distinction between right and wrong or good and bad behavior".

These are your words, Phil. Not mine.

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Phil Stilwell **Jim Price** That's right! There is no moral right or wrong. That does not mean there's no practical right or wrong. If you want to stay dry, carry an umbrella. That's not a moral issue. Neither is living a happy life. You clearly don't need to invoke morality to have compassion and live a happy compassionate life, right?

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Jim Price Phil Stilwell -- Those are preferences Phil. Just silly, subjective preferences, and either choice is as valid as the other.

I could kill you, or buy you a meal. In your worldview, either of those is equally acceptable.

Compassion does not exist in an amoral world.

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Phil Stilwell Jim Price that's right! They are preferences. I'm giving you recommendations! That's precisely the point! They are recommendations for so you can live a happy life! What are you not getting here?

Now, explain why compassion is not possible without morality? How about the other emotions such as fear and jealousy and surprise? Why is the emotion of compassion special, and somehow not possible were there no morality?

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Phil Stilwell Jim Price , you don't believe animals are moral creatures, yet you believe they have compassion, right?

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Jim Price Phil Stilwell -- We're not talking about happiness (or animals), I merely pointed out that without morals, recommending that someone behave with compassion is illogical.

In an amoral world, there can be no compassion; there is no moral standard with which to differentiate compassionate vs uncompassionate behavior.

What you ignore in acknowledging compassion in this world, is that there is a standard. Yet even as you deny the standard exists, you claim the benefit of it.

It's not a very original position.



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Phil Stilwell Jim Price , there is no moral right or wrong in killing me. But what would that do to your psyche and plans in life? Just because there is no morality does not mean emotions or consequences disappear.

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Jim Price Phil Stilwell -- if there were no moral standards, my phsyche would be just fine.



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Phil Stilwell **Jim Price** , after you killed someone?

Like · Reply · 9m



Jim Price **Phil Stilwell** -- Absolutely. With no moral standards, why should killing someone trouble me?

Like · Reply · 8m



Phil Stilwell **Jim Price** and we are talking about animals. They have compassion. Is compassion contingent upon morality or not?

Like · Reply · 8m



Jim Price **Phil Stilwell** -- "Is compassion contingent upon morality or not?"

Asked and answered.

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Phil Stilwell **Jim Price** , I just want to confirm. If there is no morality, you would have no guilt or shame if you were to, for example, hack an infant into pieces, right?

Like · Reply · 7m · Edited



Jim Price **Phil Stilwell** -- What would it matter? There is no such thing as right and wrong, remember?

Hacking someone to pieces is no different than giving them a meal.

Like · Reply · 6m



Jim Price Guilt and shame don't exist when there is no such thing as right and wrong.

Like · Reply · 6m



Phil Stilwell **Jim Price** , wow. This has given me much greater insight into the Christian psyche. Is it OK to post this conversation other places?

Like · Reply · 6m



Jim Price **Phil Stilwell** -- Why should you care if it's okay with me?

