DEONTOLOGY AND TELEOLOGY  
CONNECTIONS AND DIFFERENCES

(Chapter 4)

There are two polar approaches to a philosophical methodology for moral decision making.

**Deontology**: what is right is that which conforms to duty  
**Teleology**: what is right conforms to good in consequences

Deontology:  
Kantian thinking (perfect duties)  
Ross (prima facie duties)  
Social contract  
Rousseau; Hobbes, Locke  
Rawls  
Divine command  
Ecclesiastical positivism

Teleology:  
Natural Law  
Proportional thinking  
Common good

Nevertheless, both systems and their variants are rooted in an *objective* component of value:

![Diagram](values_diagram)

Values  
(drawn from reality)*

Deontology  
Teleology

Norms and rules (duty) **protect** values  
Values are **made real** in consequences

*Note that philosophical theories assume that human beings, through reason, are capable of discovering the good in reality (human love is nourishing to human growth, hatred is not; health is good for people, illness is not; mushrooms make a good and nutritional salad, toadstools do not). This idea is congruent with Catholic anthropology.

Nevertheless, because of human limitations (see chapter 5), human beings may individually or collectively choose as value something that is not (infant sacrifice to the gods) or be slow in finding a value that is real (freedom and basic rights for all human beings). Therefore, the objective culture--reality as we are able to know it because of our own biases or our time and place in history--is not a complete set of all the values that might be.