



# STUDY GUIDE

## WHERE DO GOOD AND EVIL COME FROM?

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**KEY TERMS:**

good  
morality

evil  
Atheists

God  
super-natural

**NOTE-TAKING COLUMN:** Complete this section during the video. Include definitions and key terms.

From what premise does Professor Kreeft argue for the existence of God?

Why can't conscience alone be the source of morality?

What do moral laws direct and order?

**CUE COLUMN:** Complete this section after the video.

According to Professor Kreeft, why is morality not part of the human condition?

What is the outline of the argument that Professor Kreeft uses to arrive at the claim that, "...whenever you appeal to morality you are appealing to God?"

## DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- What is the importance of exploring where morality comes from- in other words, how and why is it meaningful and beneficial for you to examine where morality originates from?
- Professor Kreeft begins his argument by framing part of it with the question, “Where do good and evil come from?” How would you answer this question? What reasoning or evidence brings you to your conclusion? Why is answering this question so important to being able to come to a conclusion about where morality comes from?
- When discussing why human nature cannot be the ultimate source of morality, Professor Kreeft argues that, “...human nature is the reason we need morality. Our human nature leads some of us to do real evil, and leads all of us to be selfish, unkind, petty and egocentric.” Do you agree with this claim? Why or why not? How does this claim relate to or fit into the argument that human nature cannot be the source of morality?
- Professor Kreeft begins the video by stating, “I’m going to argue for the existence of God from the premise that moral good and evil really exists,” then goes on to claim that, “... they [moral laws] direct and order...right human behavior... But since morality doesn’t exist physically – [morality] must therefore be above nature – or super-natural, “ and that, “Just as a design suggests a designer, moral commands suggest a moral commander. Moral Laws must come from a moral lawgiver.” Do you think that Professor Kreeft makes a compelling and sound case? Why or why not? If yes, what evidence or reasoning do you find compelling? If not, what are the flaws in the reasoning that don’t convince you?
- Professor Kreeft ends the video by claiming that, “The consequence of the argument [that morality must come from a super-natural moral lawgiver] is that whenever you appeal to morality you are appealing to God whether you know it or not; you’re talking about something religious, even if you think you’re an atheist.” Do you agree with this claim? Why or why not? According to Professor Kreeft, what is the necessary connection between morality and religion?

## EXTEND THE LEARNING:

### CASE STUDY: Welles Crowther

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article “Welles Crowther’s legacy lives on,” then answer the questions that follow.

- Who was Welles Crowther and what did he do that was so important? Why do you think that he did what he did? How did Mr. Crowther’s decisions and actions contrast those of the terrorists, in terms of ‘good and evil?’
- Philosophers often argue about whether morality is objective (there is one fixed set of ideas about what is right and wrong in regards to human conduct) or whether morality is subjective (what is right or wrong for one individual or culture may not necessarily be right or wrong for another). Thus, while some may argue that what Mr. Crowther did was right, some may argue that what the people who took control of the airliners and killed all of those people did was right. Which does Professor Kreeft argue for- objective or subjective morality? Which do you argue for, and what is your reasoning? Professor Kreeft claims that, “The very existence of morality proves the existence of something beyond nature and beyond man.” Do you agree with this claim? Why or why not?
- How do both Mr. Crowther’s heroism and the cowardly acts of the terrorists on 9/11 support Professor Kreeft’s argument in regards to morality not originating from reason, conscience, human nature, evolution, or utilitarianism?



# QUIZ

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1. What do moral laws direct and order?
  - a. Objectivity
  - b. Free will
  - c. The food chain
  - d. Right human behavior
  
2. Where do good and evil come from?
  - a. Evolution
  - b. Reason
  - c. Conscience
  - d. None of the above.
  
3. Risking one's life to save a stranger is a very \_\_\_\_\_ thing to do.
  - a. unreasonable
  - b. pointless
  - c. reasonable
  - d. practical
  
4. Dr. Kreeft argues that atheists cannot behave morally.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
5. \_\_\_\_\_ is the reason we need morality.
  - a. Biology
  - b. Abolition of slavery
  - c. Human nature
  - d. Evolution



# QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

## WHERE DO GOOD AND EVIL COME FROM?

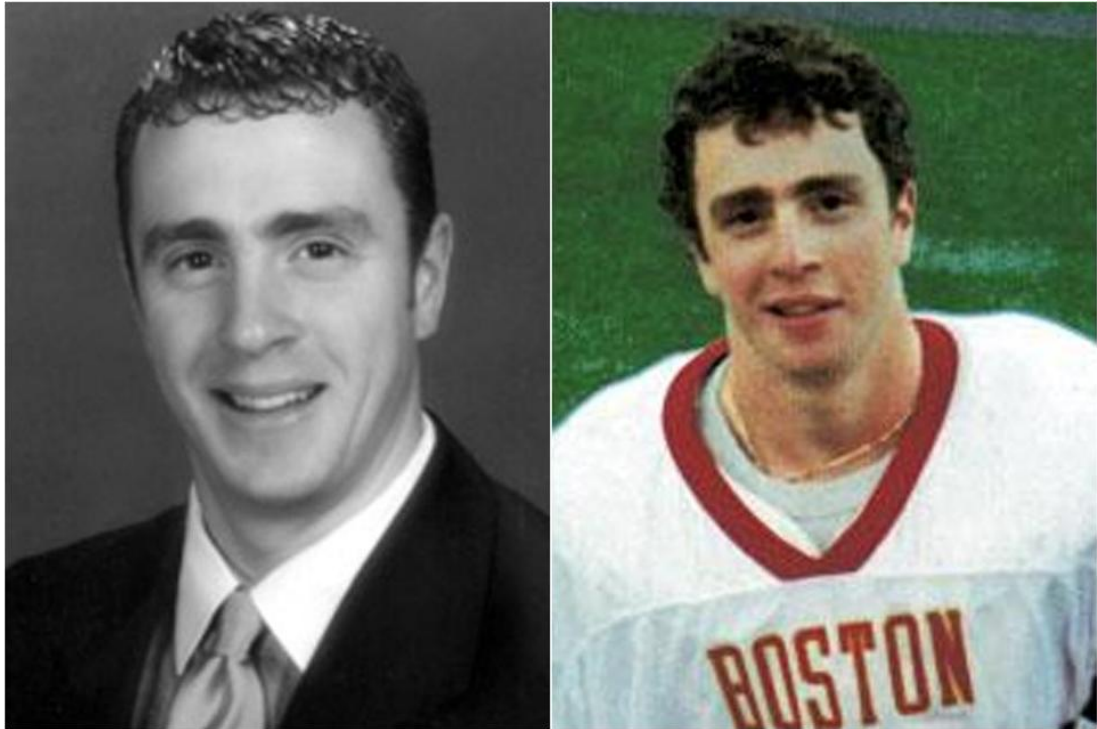
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<https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2014/09/08/the-red-bandanna/6VqHDgzdueX73AMqTmud3J/story.html>

KEVIN CULLEN

## Welles Crowther's legacy lives on



Boston College

Welles Remy Crowther

By [Kevin Cullen](#) Globe staff September 09, 2014

Welles Remy Crowther was 6 years old when his father handed him a red bandanna. Jefferson Crowther explained the difference between the bandanna and a handkerchief he handed his son separately: one was for show, the other was for blow, as in blowing the nose.

Wherever he went, whatever he did, Welles Crowther carried a red bandanna. He wore one under his hockey and lacrosse helmets in high school. He walked into the Rev. Richard McGowan's freshman statistics class at Boston College wearing a red bandanna, and the priest asked him if it had anything to do with Garibaldi. It didn't. Father McGowan smiled.

Welles played lacrosse at BC and wore a red bandanna and No. 19, his old high school number, every game.

Welles graduated from BC in 1999 and took a job as an equities trader, working on the 104th floor of the South Tower of the World Trade Center. It offered a great view, but Welles was looking beyond that. One

day, he called his dad, saying he didn't want to spend the rest of his life looking at a computer screen. He wanted to join the Fire Department of New York. It wasn't such a stretch; at 16, he had become a volunteer firefighter in his hometown of Nyack, N.Y.

When United Flight 175 sliced through the South Tower on Sept. 11, 2001, Welles ran out of his office and became, for all intents and purposes, an FDNY firefighter. He ran downstairs and began helping people on the floors below. He covered his mouth and nose with the red bandanna and led people to safety. He carried a woman on his back, down 17 floors. Then he ran back up and talked the way he talked on the ice, on the lacrosse field, willing people to get up and help others if they could. They did what he said, and they made it out.

Welles didn't. Six months after the towers collapsed, they found his body, huddled with the bodies of New York firefighters. They were meant to be together.

Every year, as the anniversary approaches, Alison Crowther feels the anxiety rise. "I just started to get that overwhelming feeling," she told me Monday.

But then the thought of her son dying is overwhelmed by the way in which he died, saving others. "Welles's legacy is such a positive one," she said. "It touches more and more people, every year."

It touches people because the friends and family of Welles Crowther and his BC family insist his legacy lives on. There's a curriculum that teaches young people about the values he embodied. There's the Red Bandanna Run every October at BC. Tyler Jewell, one of his friends and teammates at BC, wore a red bandanna at the Olympics as a member of the US snowboard team.

When Pat McCavanagh, another friend and teammate, began coaching the BC lacrosse team some years ago, instead of retiring Welles's number, he started handing it out to the player who best exemplifies the traits that led Welles to run back up the stairs of the South Tower.

Not long ago, the first kid who got No. 19, Alex Prozano, was profoundly moved as he looked at Welles's name engraved in the South Pool at the National September 11 Memorial & Museum. "He lives on," Pat McCavanagh said. "Welles lives on."

BC is playing Southern Cal in football at The Heights Saturday night. The bookies aren't giving BC much of a chance: they're 20-point underdogs. But every BC player will be wearing helmets and uniforms emblazoned with a red bandanna when they play USC.

Bookies factor many things into setting a line, but not red bandannas. Go BC.

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