ANSWERS TO WS 1

"WHEN IS AN ACTION GOOD?"

All four statements are about "good" actions. But everyone obviously understands something different by "good.

EXERCISE

1. Formulate a suitable interpretation of the term "good" for each statement. Add your personal interpretation of the term "good" and find a suitable example.

An action is "good" for Rosi if it meets the following characteristics:
An action is good if it gives pleasure and joy to the person acting, because: if everyone directs his actions to his own good, everyone is taken care of.

Rosi: "I do what I feel like doing and what's good for me. Because if everyone thinks of themselves then everyone is taken care of."

An action is "good" for Steffi if it meets the following characteristics:
An action is good if it conforms to the views of the Holy Scriptures (or other rules) and would be considered "positive or desirable" by them.

Steffi: "I lead a good life. Because I base it entirely on the Holy Scriptures."

An action is "good" for Tom if it meets the following characteristics:
An action is good when the good of the majority outweighs the suffering of the minority.

Tom: "I am a good person. Because I killed the shooter on a rampage and thus saved at least ten lives."

An action is "good" for Paul if it meets the following characteristics:
An action is good if it strives for social justice. This also allows actions that are against the law.

Paul: "I am a good person: I take from the the rich and give to the poor."

2. In the group, find a tentative definition of good action. Can you agree, or are there contradictions?

"An action is good if ..."
...it is beneficial
...all parties involved are satisfied
...it is in accordance with values
...it does not violate social norms
...its consequences do not lead to suffering
...one does not have a bad conscience...

3. Present your definition to the plenary.