

Consider these various expressions of belief:

- 1) I believe that adultery is wrong.
- 2) I believe that we acquire the belief that adultery is wrong from our culture.
- 3) I believe that the belief that adultery is wrong is made true by God.
- 4) I believe that we acquire the belief that the belief that adultery is wrong is made true by God from our culture.
- 5) I believe that the belief that adultery is wrong is made true by our culture.
- 6) I believe that everybody in this or that culture believes that adultery is wrong.
- 7) I believe that individuals have different beliefs about the morality of adultery, and that there is no objective way to resolve their disagreements.
- 8) I believe that a divine creator of all things has declared adultery to be either right or wrong, but I do not know which (right or wrong) the creator has declared it to be, therefore I withhold judgment on this matter.

Question: Based on this information alone, as which of the following can we identify the person expressing the belief: Objectivist/Realist; Cultural Relativist; Individual Relativist/Subjectivist; Skeptic; none of the above.

Answers:

- 1) = None of the above. This is just a moral belief.
- 2) = None of the above. This is just a belief about the source of a moral belief.
- 3) = Objectivism—a belief about *the truth-maker of a belief*, namely, that the truth-maker (and therefore the truth) is independent of any individual's or culture's belief.
- 4) = None of the above. This is just a belief about the source of a belief about the truth-maker of a belief (i.e., a belief about the source of a belief in objectivism).
- 5) = Cultural Relativism—a belief about *the truth-maker of a belief*, namely, that the truth-maker (and therefore the truth) is dependent upon/determined by a culture's belief.
- 6) = None of the above. This is just a belief about a culture's moral beliefs.
- 7) = None of the above. This is just the belief that people disagree; it says nothing about the source of the truth of anyone's beliefs.
- 8) = Objectivist and Skeptic. An objectivist about there being a truth about the morality of adultery, but a skeptic about what this truth is.

Remember: Objectivism and Relativism have nothing to do with the source of *our beliefs*, but rather with the source of *the truth* (of our beliefs).