

Reading Questions for September 24

These questions cover excerpts of a dialogue by Plato called *Euthyphro*. The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to do the reading more than once to get the answers.

1. On page 11, Euthyphro defines the pious and the impious. On the next page, Socrates asks him: “Is the pious being loved by the gods because it is pious, or is it pious because it is being loved by the gods?” What does Socrates mean by this question – what is the difference supposed to be? How does it cause problems for Euthyphro’s definition?
2. Many philosophers think there is a similar problem if you define moral goodness as that which God approves of. Can you figure out what the analogous problem is? Does this show that we cannot define moral goodness as that which God approves of, or is there a way around the problem?