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“Flash!” I turn on the television and change it to the five o’clock news. As usual, I listen to the events of the day: accidents in all parts of the world, robberies, politics, celebrity gossip, and alas–unsolved murders. I wonder, how do all of these murders go unsolved? Well, according to Socrates, a Greek philosopher, “There is only one good, that is, knowledge; and there is only one evil, that is, ignorance.” If evil only came from ignorance, then why do these murders go unsolved for so long? Knowledge is what helps murderers get away with it. Evil can result from knowledge and good can result from ignorance.

How can evil result from knowledge? Well think about identity theft, online scammers, serial killers. What these people have in common is that they commit a crime and are able to get away with it for a long time. Most of these people are never even caught. In order to do this, they need to be very knowledgeable in what they are doing. An online scammer couldn’t hide from the police if he wasn’t computer savvy. A serial killer couldn’t get away with murder if he left clues behind. So when you think about it evil can come in the form of knowledge, and isn’t always the “one good” that Socrates believes in. But how can any good come from ignorance?

According to Socrates, “There is only one evil, that is, ignorance.” However, haven’t you ever heard the saying, “Ignorance is bliss?” For instance, we can say a baby is ignorant because he isn’t aware of all aspects of life; he has a lot to learn, but how can we say they are evil? On the contrary, they cause no harm and are pure and good. The truth is, ignorance is bliss. Babies don’t know people die and get hurt. They don’t know that someday, they will hurt others, and that someday, they will die too. That is why they are happy. Ignorance does not always result in evil.

In conclusion, evil can result from knowledge and good can result from ignorance. That doesn’t mean that all people should be ignorant or that knowledge is bad. It just means that being completely knowledgeable or completely ignorant is bad. I believe that even thinking that knowledge is “the only good” is an ignorant comment in and of itself because you ignore all aspects of life. Sorry Socrates.