**Ethics & Morality Definitions**

Parent & Family Resource. Introduction to Ethics and Morality.

Eloisa gives a brief introduction to the concept and definition of ethics and morality as it will be used in the Parent and Family Resource. Ethics is a useful starting point when one begins to get an education in love. Presented on the 4th of March 2021 at 12:30pm in Wilkesdale, Queensland, Australia.

Hi, I'm Eloisa, welcome to this parenting principles presentation and we'll be discussing ethics and morality.

This is just a brief overview to give you the basic concepts, so you have some theory about what I'm speaking about when I use the terminology ethics and morality.

When I refer to morality, I'm speaking about treating others, yourself, all of God's Creations in a manner in harmony with God's Love. Morality is a standard or code that helps us to understand what is good and evil, right or wrong, unloving or loving from God's perspective. I suppose in a nutshell you could say morality is God's version of what is loving and what is not, and what is right and good so, from God's perspective.

When I speak about ethics, I'm talking about what some of you might know as the Golden Rule which is treating others as you would like to be treated yourself. So, this is treating others, the natural environment, yourself in harmony with natural love, or the love that comes from a human, and as I just said, treat others as you would like to treat yourself. It is a way that you can create equality in relationships.

Ethics is a pretty good way - well it's a good starting point to learn about love when you're not really sure what it means to be loving. It's not necessarily how God feels about it and sometimes what we think is ethical or loving might be a bit distorted, and it might not actually be loving but being ethical, in a lot of ways, can figure stuff out.

So, for example, if you punch someone - like if you get punched in the nose every day, you're probably not going to like that very much. When it then comes that you want to punch someone in the nose, you need to kind of go, I wouldn't like that, alright, probably out of harmony with ethics. I need to now look at why I don't want to love, you know, so okay, probably not loving; alright, why do I want to do that? What in me feels it's okay to do that, you know, all of these kinds of things.

Another one might be you want your partner to take out the rubbish every single time and you feel like he should, but you hate doing the rubbish, well now you're out of harmony with ethics. Why should he do something you hate doing, that's unethical so, obviously now - well it might not be obvious, but now there's an issue of love at hand. Why is it okay for you to expect or demand something of someone else that you wouldn't do yourself?

Now you can measure that there is a lack of love in this area. Ethics is a wonderful tool you can use in order to figure out a lot about love, and it can answer a lot of questions very rapidly.

Another example could be like, you know, you don't like being shouted at, you'd rather someone just kindly told you an instruction or helped you if you made a mistake to just say, oh wow, hold on, you just made a mistake but to treat you in a loving manner without judgement, ridicule or pulling you down or raging at you.

If you start raging at someone when they make a mistake, and in regard to parents and children, kids are learning and they're doing all kinds of things. They probably are going to ruin a whole lot of your gear, and they might touch things that they're not supposed to touch, and they are going to be curious and maybe put their fingers in stuff that you don't want them to put their fingers in, you know.

An example - when we were kids, it was like, I had cousins, and they came and they basically ruined all of my sister's makeup like squeezing stuff and putting their fingers in everything and using it all and everything. Now there's a reflection to look at, one, what's going on with the parents and why did these cousins believe they could go through someone else's stuff without asking and taking stuff and using things and squeezing stuff out, like there is an issue there.

They were old enough to know that that wasn't a way to treat things, and they wouldn't have done it at their own home, so there's an issue of ethics for their parents, you know, being reflected by the child. But if you were being ethical and you loved the child, you wouldn't yell at them and try and pull them down or judge them or make them feel guilty about it, you would speak to them about what had happened. You'd educate them about the way to interact with certain gear, in particular in this case when it was quite expensive products and things like that, and then you would have some loving consequence.

Maybe they need to then work in order that they can make enough money so that they could purchase products back, or they need to see that what they've done has been an unloving act towards another person, and also towards the products themselves, you know, to see the value of certain products and appreciate the value of certain products, and that is something that would need to be taught to a child.

It's more about education than it is about punishment or reward.

I notice in Australian schools, particularly at the moment, there's this reward system and I think it's terrible to be quite frank because well, one, children don't actually get the natural satisfaction of learning. When you do something really good and there's a satisfied feeling that you get and these lovely emotions you get when you achieve something on your own learning.

The rewards are also, really, I think, made for the people who are misbehaving the most so those people who are already do the right thing, I don't know, they don't really need the rewards in this sense of the rewards they usually give in schools. And the ones who are playing up and they're trying to correct the behaviour, the behaviour never gets corrected, and they end up getting sort of like rewarded for like these menial things that literally the next day they don't do well.

Now it's more the intention of how they're using the punishment/reward system that I don't think is very good. If you have sincere - it's like giving praise to a child, for instance, which can be a punishment or a reward or withholding it. So, if your intention is to punish when you withhold praise, or if your intention is to sort of like overdo it, you know, if you're always praising for these miniscule things which is something I actually did with our kids at one point, and I realise the detriment of doing it.

I was praising them for all these tiny things that literally were - they should just be doing because they're the right thing to do. One thing - I'm just trying to give an example like just having their shoes not in the front of the front door. Now the natural consequence to that instead of like being well done for putting your shoes together, isn't that wonderful that you've done it, oh, fantastic.

Now if you had a sincere feeling of like, when a child is young and they're just learning to do that, you're liked gosh, well done, you've really achieved something there, and you're honouring their achievement, and they can feel that feeling from you, no problem.

But if you're just doing it as a method to get them to do something which is really manipulative, it's not going to work out well, and I suggest that it will work only when you praise them, or they might rebel about it and not do it, or they'll think, I just get this anyway, so what's the point. If they don't want to leave their shoes all nicely, they're not going to.

But if you can instil in them the reasons why it's good to leave your shoes, you can get to them quickly, it's neat and tidy, you're not going to treat over them if you're carrying something outside, there's all these natural consequences that would happen if you just left shoes everywhere all the time. I think a lot of the time parents are taking away the natural consequences in a lot of very small situations that are quite harmless to children, and they're not hurting them in anyway.

For instance, if they have their own plate and bowl, you can easily teach your child if they don't wash it up, then they have a dirty plate or bowl the next time they eat, and I'm sure over a period of time that child will be like, oh, I don't want a dirty bowl but if they can get a new plate every time, and just leave a stack of dishes and they never have to do them, then you're sort of teaching them, well, you can take whatever you want and you never have to clean up.

Whereas if you limit it and say, no, this is your plate and bowl and it's your responsibility to care for them, and you educate them on how to care for them, and then off they can go. And then they learn, and they appreciate the thing there when it's clean and tidy, and they have an appreciation for it, and not an expectation or a demand that they should get a new thing.

Now taken this all back to ethics and morality, if you are ethical, well mainly to ethics, we'll talk about morality probably later because morality is something that comes as you begin a relationship with God, and as you seek and you desire to love as God Loves, then you're going to seek out and want to do what is loving and right from God's perspective.

When you first start out, like for me, I found that very difficult to discern and I'd hear - you know, I had the teachings of Divine Truth, and I relied on them a lot. I listened to them all the time actually when I first began, I listened a lot, a lot and a lot of Divine Truth teachings, and I would try and apply those to my life, but I couldn't when they weren't in my soul, and often I found that I actually didn't understand them because I didn't really have the truth in my soul.

They were just words and so I was trying to act on the words that I heard but it wasn't a feeling coming from me yet, and ethics is a way that was a simple way to help me do that.

I could easily measure - so I suppose if we want to talk about the principle of ethics, is it's just like, okay, would I like that done to me, and that cut out a lot of things I was doing.

It was like, no, I wouldn't like to be shouted at, no, I wouldn't like to be roughly pulled away from something when I'm going to get hurt, and I could see that wow, I want to roughly pull the child away because I am afraid and I just want to get them away as fast as possible, and I used to think that was okay, but that's not, that's actually projecting my fear on the child.

I'd be far better to just feel how afraid I felt, and to deal with that, as long as the child's not in a super dangerous situation because I might remove them out of the super dangerous situation, and feel as I'm doing it, and everything else because if you're feeling, even while you're taking an action, then there's less projection on the child and the child is not going to absorb all of the feelings that you've got going on.

It's when you deny your feelings, that's the worst thing you can do, is deny your feelings because then they're just spraying out like a frigging waterspout in all directions and hitting everybody the hardest possible.

When you're feeling your feelings, that's when there's the least coming out of you, ironically, even though you may feel like the most is coming out of you because you're being more expressive of your own feelings.

When you're in denial of your feelings or you’re projecting your feelings, that's sort of like when it's the strongest coming out of you, and that's a - it's quite an unpleasant place to actually be when you start having the contrast of working through feelings and being in a place where you're feeling your feelings more.

You can then start to feel when you get blocked up and there's a feeling in there that you're not feeling and you can start seeing, if you've got children, particularly small children, you can actually start seeing them reacting to those feelings in you, and it becomes a really wonderful educational process.

First you might not actually share my enthusiasm (Laughs) for the process. I'm just remembering when I first started, and everything just felt overwhelming and too much, and I was being super exposed, and there was nothing good about me, and everything that was just being shown to me was terrible, that's kind of what it felt like to me, and it all felt like a big drama, and a big everything, and I felt like I had to have so much courage just to sort of like let myself feel or say the thing that I wanted to, and I'd build it all up, and I'd psych myself up. (Laughs)

But now it's quite different, now it's sort of like, things happen, I notice, I go and feel, I come back and re-engage, I often have to go off and feel again, come back and re-engage, the next thing happens, another thing comes up, another re-engagement, you know, and really just by acting and engaging, then feelings are just naturally there, and you just feel them as you go and if you don't feel them then something else has to happen later on, so you have another opportunity to feel them.

I suppose I feel a lot more relaxed about the process than I did when I started. Yes, I think it's a lovely - I really encourage you to document what happens. I was encouraged to do the same but at the time I think I felt so sort of judgemental and embarrassed about myself that I didn't really do much of that.

I did write a lot and journal a lot and wrote down things that were happening, so I do have a written record. But, yes, just filming what's going on in your family and watching it back, even if you don't watch it - you know, you just archive it and watch it in a couple of years. It's so fascinating to see the dynamics that are happening, and also to document your own change, and I think it would be a wonderful thing to do.

Now I really regret that I didn't document because I wish I had things to splice in from back then now so you can actually see what it was like because I'll be telling you these things, and if you meet me in real life, and you meet the children, you'd be like, what is she talking about, they're not like that. But the thing is, is that - yes, there's been sort of subsequent changes, and things are quite different now, and just having a documentation of that I think would be really interesting so it's worth documenting.

It's not hard now, most people have phones and everything, you've got video on your phones so if you just get some storage devices, off you go with it. Anyway, I digress, I digress and take you off on bit of a tangent there, the focus was on ethics and learning about love.

Yes, basic ethics do you like what's being done to you, that doesn't mean what is being done to you or what you are doing. It means do unto others as you would like done to you so, if you would like to be treated with respect, treat others with respect. If you would like to be asked questions before things happen, treat others with it. It might not always be loving but you'll figure it out as you go along. If you'd like to be listened to, listen to others, and if you're not but you expect them to listen to you, but you don't listen to them, you're not being ethical. You're not now being loving.

There’re all these things that you can learn about love via ethics, and then as I said as you grow in love, and you have more of a desire to know and feel and come to understand God, then you'll probably also come to feel and understand God more and act more morally. And once you start acting in a moral manner now you are far more in harmony with love because ethics sometimes still isn't always loving.

You know, like if you've got some kind of belief systems, you might think it's loving to do everything for another person, you might think it's loving that they do all these things for you.

For instance, you might think it's loving to commiserate with someone when they're going through an emotion, and they might also feel that it's loving to commiserate with you. You like being commiserated with and you want to commiserate with others but commiserating with someone else about what's happening in their life which means sort of agreeing with them, and having a feeling of agreement, and reinforcing that, that's not a loving thing to do because often the things that are happening our life that we commiserate with people about - you know, actually commiserate, it kind of causes misery, commissary. (Laughs)

It does end up causing misery because you don't deal with the issue and so that is unethical - it's actually immoral but in certain circumstances you may be ethical.

So, I'm illustrating a point that sometimes ethics isn't necessarily loving either but under the majority of circumstances in my experience, you can use ethics as a way to figure out, alright, if I'm treating someone in a manner I wouldn't like to be treated, now I'm out of harmony with love. If someone is treating me in a manner that I wouldn't treat them in, I'm probably out of harmony with love here and ethics.

As I said, it's just a tool to get you started while you grow a relationship with God, and you learn more about love.

Once you're educated in love, then you can actually become more moral, and by upholding morals and ethics all together, now life is going to get a lot more smooth and more enjoyable.

This is the lovely thing about love, the more loving you are, the more freedom you have in the world and the more you can discover, and the more you see and the more opportunities you have, just the more everything really. Love is definitely a benefit, and it will also make your family dynamic a lot happier, you'll feel more closely connected with your partner and your children even if they don't feel close and connected to you.

I've noticed that as I'm going through my own emotions and growing a desire to be a more loving, truthful person, I feel closer to people and more interested in people even when they're not actually interested or don't feel close to me, so that's just a lovely result I suppose of acting on a loving desire.

So that brings me to the conclusion of ethics and morality. I've just given a definition of what ethics and morality were at the beginning and encouraging you to see ethics as the first point of call in basically learning about love and yes, creating equality in relationships.

I hope you enjoyed the presentation, and I'll see you in the next one.