

Ethical Nearsightedness and Tentativeness

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According to *Practicing Communication Ethics*, “ethical nearsightedness is the inability to recognize and think about ethical issues” (Tompkins, 2023, p.16). Ethical nearsightedness is something that I can improve on, as long as I am intentional about it. Likewise, Dictionary.com states that being tentative is the act of being unsure, uncertain, or hesitant (Dictionary.com, n.d.). Nearsightedness and tentativeness go hand in hand, as not being able to recognize or think about ethical issues can lead to tentativeness in ethical problem solving. Developing ethical problem-solving skills is a crucial part of counteracting this. The best way for me to solve ethical issues is to understand my personal ethical statement. Within this contains my credo, which describes my ethical standards and commitments. The most important things for a credo, and therefore a personal ethical statement, is to know how one feels about truth, justice, freedom, care, integrity, and honor.

Truth

To begin, truthful communication is very important to me. For one, there is a principle of veracity, which should be kept. Also, being honest in a relationship can help solve conflict. Suppose that I find myself in an argument with someone. If either of us lie or hide something during the discussion then we cannot fix the problem at hand. Likewise, if I lie to someone in my community, or if I make a promise to my community that I cannot keep, then I have lost their respect and they are less likely to trust me. The same can be said for those that I live and work with as well. To me, it is mindless and immoral to lie.

However, if my family, friends, and boyfriend told lies instead of the truth I feel as if I would stop trusting them and possibly distance myself from them as I do not like to be deceived. On the other hand, I would most likely get my feelings hurt more often if my family and boyfriend told the truth as I often feel as if they do lie sometimes to spare my emotional distress.

All in all, I would prefer for those around me to tell the truth all the time instead of lying all the time because I would be able to trust them.

Justice

Next, being fair is a crucial part of justice, and to be fair is to make things equal for all involved. It is part of the equality bias, and in a sense, it is to get justice for all involved as well. Deserving communication is a distributive justice. Distributive justice is when is everything spread among people equally (Tompkins, 2023, p82). However, I believe that even though communication should be withheld in distributive justice, no one should ever say everything that he or she thinks.

Freedom

Additionally, the rights that are important in protecting opportunities are the right to communicate, the right to equality, and the right to education. Above these, the most important is the right to communicate. A necessary resource to practice this freedom is the First Amendment right. This means that the right to communicate is protected by the United States and cannot legally be taken away. The responsibility of communication is to communicate ethically, meaning knowing what to and what not to say. In essence it is the idea that I should think before I speak and act to make sure that the way that I am communicating is ethical.

Care

When thinking about care, it is important that my practice of ethical commitments directly involve people I know or meet because it is ethically and morally right. It also shows how much I care for the people around me and how considerate I may or may not be. In more practical ways, showing care could also help me get a job in the future. For example, if I meet someone in the same field as my dream career, and I practice my ethical commitments and show

that I care, then that person will have a good impression of me and is more likely to recommend me. Simply put, for me this is the perfect place to practice the Golden Rule and the Platinum Rule.

Integrity

Another point is that personal accountability plays the role of keeping yourself in check while practicing ethics. You should rely on your conscience and do what is ethically right, and you must hold yourself responsible for it. In part, that is what your conscience does, it keeps you from doing what is wrong and steers you towards doing what is right.

Honor

Finally, the right to be respected is called honor. A few things I could do to be worthy of honor are holding up to codes of honor and external honor. External honor deals with the way others view your name, reputation, and respect. There is also being worthy of esteem, which is to go above what the code of honor calls for.

Personally, I am willing to bring God honor, as well as bring myself a little honor. However, I think that the only way to bring oneself honor, one must bring full honor to God.

References

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