

## Ethics of Care

The author begins by describing the elements of the “Ethics of Care.” To begin, ethics of care is about taking care of the people in our lives that we feel we are responsible for. This particular moral theory depends on the emotion of the individual feeling the need to care for another individual, with the understanding that sometimes even negative emotions can lead to a positive change (i.e. witnessing an injustice and needing to take action). In comparison to the other moral theories that exist on right and wrong, ethics of care, the author states, is less concerned with universal ideas of who should be cared for and when and more centered around the emotions and relationships people have.

The dominant theorists are often on two extremes of “selfish individual” and “humanity” (Due, 12). However, ethics of care often falls between them understanding that there can be a middle of the road. This is all intertwined with the idea that the ethics of care understands that relationships and friendships have a moral value to them and often individuals need guidance in how they can grow and develop. This idea also transfers into more global relationships like an individual’s understanding of his or her connection to society and even politics.

Another characteristic is that this particular moral idea understands that what happens at home in the private sense also impacts the public realms in which an individual is involved. The ethics of care understands that individuals cannot separate what shapes them just by being in a different environment. Because of this, the ethics of care sees people as having relationships as interdependent on others.

When comparing ethics of justice and ethics of care, the ethics of care focuses on trust and the other elements that build relationships where the former focuses on principles. Individuals who study these two ideals argue that they are not related. Some advocates of ethics of justice find no place for ethics of care while the advocates of ethics of care do not see any less value in their theory than that of ethics of justice. The author, Due, believes that they should be kept separate in order to keep the authenticity of the law. She believes that “Care is probably the most deeply fundamental value. There can be care without justice (Due 17). She continues to explain how society is dominated by ideas that require care, even though they are undervalued.

Due concludes that both ethics of care and virtue ethics understand that whatever the moral code is, it must be practiced. Virtue theory, however, did not always focus on caring for individuals. Due states that while caring is a virtue, she doesn’t believe that they are directly connected. She believes that it is a “distinct outlook” and is sometimes looked at as incomplete because of the ways it is linked to emotions rather than concrete evidence or facts.