

Module 9: Ethics, Morality and Integrity

1. *Difference between Ethics, Morals and Integrity*

<https://www.compliancebuilding.com/2010/09/16/integrity-morality-and-ethics/>

Integrity: A state or condition of being whole, complete, unbroken, unimpaired, sound, in perfect condition.

Ethics: In a given group, ethics is the agreed upon standards of what is desirable and undesirable; of right and wrong conduct; of what is considered by that group as good and bad behaviour of a person, group or entity that is a member of the group, and may include defined bases for discipline, including exclusion.

Morality: In a given society, in a given era of that society, morality is the generally-accepted standards of what is desirable and undesirable; of right and wrong conduct, and what is considered by that society as good or bad behaviour of a person, group or entity.

2. *Convergence of Sensibility and Sensitivity*

<https://youtu.be/FaMqWgyiGd8>

Gurudev, when we put our focus on others, we get weak. Like when Yudhistira (character from Indian epic Mahabharata) put his focus on the Pandavas (Yudhistira's brothers) he got weak, but Krishna told him to be centered. Does this mean we should not be sensitive to others?

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar:

You must know ***the difference between being sensitive to others and getting caught up in the emotions of others***. These are two different things.

You can easily get caught up in someone else's emotion, and lose your centeredness. Then your perception gets dull, your judgments become hazy or erroneous. And you don't get that clarity.

Like a father or mother, they know their kid is crying and then they know that the kid will stop crying. And they attend to its need. They don't get emotionally involved, 'Oh the baby is crying so I will also start crying'.

Just imagine, every day a newborn baby cries, now if the mother also cries with the baby the whole time, what will happen! Disaster! The baby cries almost every hour or every two hours, just imagine the mother crying every hour or two!

You have to be sensitive. It doesn't mean that the mother is insensitive to the baby crying. The mother is all the more sensitive, but she doesn't get carried away by the emotion of the baby. When someone is crying, you also start crying, that is getting totally sucked into someone else's emotion. The mother is sensitive, yet she is not sucked into the emotion of the baby. In the same way, that is what Yoga does. It keeps you centered, yet sensitive and sensible.

There are two kinds of people:

1. People who are very sensible. They are cerebral people, very sensible but they are not sensitive because they think what they know is right.
2. Those who are very sensitive, but often are not very sensible. They get carried away by emotions. They talk only through emotions.

You know, three months in a year the male elephant gets a secretion. The testosterone increases, so they get some secretion in their head. And those three months, the big elephant doesn't even listen to the mahout. He becomes a little wild, so they chain him at that time.

So a lady who came for the first time saw that the elephant had been chained, and she started saying, 'Oh this animal is being chained', and started crying.

If that animal is not chained, everybody else will have to cry because he is not in his senses in those three months, and he will do anything! Even the mahout cannot control the elephant at that time, so they put chains. And the chain is not a big thing for an elephant. It's just a few kilos; an elephant can carry tons. So it is not a big burden on it, but it looks like the elephant has a chain on its leg.

So, people who are emotional, sometimes they are not sensible. What is really needed is sensitivity along with sensibility. A perfect combination of head and heart, to say in the layman's language.

So, women already have a lot of sensitivity, they can be more sensible. And men already have a lot of sense, but they should be more sensitive. This is not a general rule, by the way. Many times it is the other way around also!

I have to put a safeguard on! (*Laughter*)

3. *Ethics as a Fundamental Necessity in Society*

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar is the founder of the Global Forum for Ethics in Business. He visited the OECD on 19 October 2016, giving a talk on ethics and sustainability. Part of The Coffees of the Secretary-General series, you can read the complete transcript of Mr Shankar's presentation below.

Thank you for inviting me here to be with you all, it is a real pleasure for me to be here in this prestigious institution which is committed to better policies for better lives. The topic I will focus on today is "Ethics for a Sustainable Globalised Economy".

Why ethics? And why should we be ethical? This is not an easy question to answer. Young people today want to make quick money without thinking about ethics. When sensibility and sensitivity converge, then ethics becomes a reality in life. Sadly, the wrong notion that one must be unethical in order to progress in business is a mindset that youngsters possess around the world. But when young people are shown how you can be prosperous following ethical means it really opens their eyes. With this vision we started the Global Forum for Ethics in Business. We focused on showcasing concrete role models to young people which can become their guiding light and demonstrate that we can be both ethical and progressive.

When we brought everyone together in our youth forum and showed what happens to people who rise unethically and how fast they subsequently fall, it made young people become more aware of what they should be and should not be doing.

With this idea we have been promoting ethics in business. There is one thing that is very common today and that is stress. Stress permeates our societies and is present in almost every field. When people are stressed, their perception is blurred and their expression is regretful. We need to help people get out of stress and our efforts have focused on this goal over the past 35 years—whether it is in prison, or in schools, or in colleges.

So the question is how do we free ourselves from stress and smile more?

4. *Case Study – Non-adherence leading to major Economic Crises worldwide*

<http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.214.2234&rep=rep1&type=pdf>

5. *Case Study – Successful Role Models who have integrated Ethics as a way of life*

<https://www.wired.com/2010/01/google-china-engagement/>

6. *Role of ethical youth as future Leaders in shaping the Nation*

[14-year-old girl wins \\$25,000 prize for research on potential coronavirus cure](#)

