

Before studying Module 5, I considered ethical theories as just definitions of good and bad. Even so, examining the diverse normative ethical views, especially the major difference between teleological and deontological theories, made me realize that they affect our everyday decision-making. I realized that ethics involves much more than picking between right and wrong; it includes our motives, our way of judging things, and what leads us when we make choices.

The concept of consequentialism shows me how often we make decisions based on the outcome rather than anything else. For example, I base many of my choices on how happy they can make others and if they address issues that can occur. This way of thinking is very similar to utilitarianism, which seeks the highest benefit for the greatest number. But after considering this module, I wondered if judging events just on results is the correct approach. Sometimes, results can be good even if someone acted unfairly.

At this point, ethical egoism and ethical altruism entered the discussion. One theory focuses solely on the self, while the other ignores the self completely. While exploring these theories, I realized each one is limited when viewed in isolation. Usually, life is not as straightforward as we may think. We must consider both our own needs and those of others, and aim to find a balance. It was clear to me that knowing what will happen because of your choice is helpful, but beyond that, a proper moral choice must be made.

For this reason, deontological ethics offered me a different way of thinking. These theorists claim that what determines an action's morality is its underlying principle, not what the result is. As Kant points out, doing the right thing for its own sake is a powerful moral principle. It made me consider that we tend to do good things only when it suits us. It means doing what is right, bearing in mind that it may not be simple.

It is not easy to use this approach in real-life situations. Many times, we let others' expectations or the fastest path affect our actions. Failing to reflect on what is right can lead us to lose our moral values. Telling a lie could solve a problem in little time, but is it still right? Based on deontology, the action is not permitted, and I see why this is so.

What really got my attention in this module was the talk about justice. I remain struck by the idea that treating people unjustly is wrong, regardless of the benefits it may bring. It made it obvious to me that it is never acceptable to accept discrimination if it only benefits most people. People's dignity must not be put aside for the sake of comfort.

Considering both kinds of ethical theory, I've discovered that they do not each offer every solution to ethical dilemmas. Every one of these theories offers something meaningful. Consequentialism shows that we should focus on the outcomes of what we do. Following

deontology, people should give special regard to principles and respect. We need to know what may occur in life, but we must also keep doing what we think is correct, even when things are unpredictable.

Through this module, I have considered how philosophy relates to my normal everyday life. I now understand my personal process of choosing what is right or wrong. To me, it's important to consider both the consequences of an action and whether the action itself is morally right. Building that type of balance takes maturity, and I wish to keep maturing in this respect.

The true purpose of ethics is to help individuals become better, not just to understand theories. I realized from this module that being morally right is not limited to getting things done, but also choosing to act according to values and determination.