

# CARE APPROACH

(e.g. Carol Gilligan, Confucius)

## “THE GOLDEN RULE”

Focuses on putting ourselves in other’s shoes. Doing the right thing involves caring for others. What’s right is to be a caring person who follows the Golden/Platinum Rule. Can be seen as a combination of the **Character** and **Code** approaches because it has elements of the type of people we are striving to be (e.g. caring/compassionate) and elements of a rule/code that it would be beneficial for all to follow (e.g. “Treat others as you/they would like to be treated”).

## QUESTIONS?

### ASK YOURSELF:

How can I treat others as I would like to be treated? (Golden Rule)

How can I treat others as they would like to be treated? (Platinum Rule)

## SAYINGS

### ASSOCIATED WITH THIS APPROACH:

“Do unto others as you’d have them do unto you”

“No one cares how much you know, until they know how much you care”

“Show them how much you care”

# PROS +

**EMPATHY.** Can help us focus on empathy and on how others would want to be treated.

*A new person wants to be a part of your group/ organization and others do not make an effort to invite them in and welcome them. You think "how would I want to be treated if I were a new person" and therefore make an effort to welcome and include them.*

**SELF-RESTRAINT.** Can help us focus on self-restraint.

*A friend lies about you to protect themselves (e.g. tells others you cheated when you didn't). You may feel that you want to do the same to show them how it feels, but you reason that even though they treated you that way, you would not want to be treated that way if you were them, so you do not retaliate.*

# CONS -

**SPECULATION.** Hard to really know how others want to be treated, especially those you don't know.

*You may want someone to be very direct with you right from the start of a stressful situation. Someone else may prefer to be comforted at first and be able to vent before hearing difficult information and you may not know this.*

**JUSTICE DENIED.** Can lead to logical inconsistencies and a lack of fairness/justice.

*You need to decide whether or not to discipline (or even dismiss) group members who have a very negative influence on the group. For example, they are not doing their part, being very disruptive, etc. If you only think "how would I/they want to be treated" you may not make a fair decision for all involved.*

## CONCLUSION

This is a very well respected approach that is an essential component of WeTake5.com's "5Cs" pluralistic approach to ethical decision-making. It can be seen as a combination of aspects of the **Character** and **Code** approaches.