



Loving

The Heart of Gentle Teaching

The pillar of Loving involves us teaching the other to become warmer and loving with us and those around them.

It can seem odd for us to say that we are teaching someone else to become more loving towards us but, this is a fundamental step in beginning to move the person from self-centeredness to being other centered.

We start this process slowly expecting more from each other by showing and asking from them things or acts that demonstrate warmth and kindness.

Then we branch out, showing them how they can extend that loving warmth to others around them

In this pillar we will begin to see people feeling pride and joy as they see how they can positively impact and uplift others; it is the start of them recognizing their value and place of giving back in relationships.

What Did John Say?

Whether in the early childhood years or in broken-hearted adults, we need to focus on teaching or re-teaching that it is simply good to be together, then this leads to us doing things together, and finally teaching that it is good to do things with and for others—the highest moral dimensions.

At this point, an ensuing sense of connectedness and companionship turns into the capacity to love others and to increasingly have a broader and deeper life-project and a sense of human engagement.

These moral dimensions then evolve into a sense of community. The dimension that is perhaps hardest to understand involves the emergence of self-centeredness after a time of intense nurturing. We want the person to be other-centered, and this requires a stretching process, always reminding the person that he/she is safe and loved while asking a slight degree more—waiting a moment, taking turns, sharing, and other virtues.

Q1

How is the person currently demonstrating being loving toward you?

Is the person showing love and warmth to others (roommates, community members, etc.)? How?

Q2

Q3

How can we continue to teach and/or deepen this pillar for the people we serve?

Connecting to Our Purpose

Teaching others to be loving toward us is a key part of our central purpose because it helps build stronger, healthier relationships and a more connected community. Here's how:

- 1. Nurturing Respect and Care:** When we show others how to love us, we teach them to understand our needs and boundaries. This creates trust and helps us feel cared for, which deepens our connection and strengthens our relationships.
- 2. Teaching Healthy Relationships:** By teaching others how to love us, we model how to build relationships based on respect and kindness. This helps everyone learn how to connect in meaningful and positive ways, supporting our goal of teaching how to build strong connections.
- 3. Building Strong Communities:** When people know how to love and support each other, it makes the community stronger and more lasting. Teaching others how to love us ensures that relationships stay healthy and sustainable over time, which helps the whole community thrive.
- 4. Encouraging Mutual Support:** Teaching someone to love us is about showing them how love can be a two-way exchange. When love is shared, it deepens our sense of belonging and strengthens the bonds in our community.