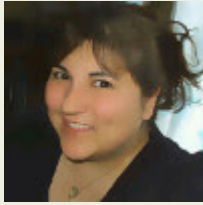


To Embrace the Positive, it's Helpful to Know the Negative



Send her mail.

"Love Perspective" is an original column appearing every other Thursday at Everything-Voluntary.com, by Serenity. Serenity is the mother of 4 boys and both a recovering mainstream parent and statist. She seeks to share what she has learned along her journey to voluntaryism, radical unschooling, and living a counter-culture lifestyle. Archived columns can be found [here](#). LP-only RSS feed available [here](#).

Hello! My name is Serenity, and I am a recovering mainstreamer in every sense of the word. My journey into a counter-culture belief system led me to realize and embrace many things which, only a few years ago, I would have completely scoffed at and ridiculed. I hope you are here to learn, and to genuinely question concepts you may find ridiculous or unlikely on the surface but which I promise are worth exploring further.

The two most important truths I've found on my journey are that every single action (and reaction) you and I make is rooted in either **love** or **fear**. Think on that for a moment. Every single feeling you have is coming from either a place of fear or a place of love. Whether you are feeling jealous (fear of losing someone/something about which you care), content (love), sad (fear of change, fear of loss), angry (fear of not being in control), it can *all* be traced back to either love or fear. This enlightenment was gleaned from a book written by Bryan Post, an amazing man who is doing a lot to help families raising children with attachment issues. While there are many other books I love and which helped my journey, Bryan's insight was a game changer for me. Once I understood that love and fear were at the root of everything we think, feel, say, and do, I realized the overwhelming majority of our society (myself included) truly believes they are doing good even though they are functioning from a place of overwhelming fear.

One of the ways we see fear-thinking is in our political climate – left vs. right, us vs. them, right vs. wrong. This is not a problem isolated to the United States, either. When a person votes based on the hope of their shared beliefs with a politician prevailing in the political arena, they are saying A) I fear others will not make good choices unless they are controlled with "righteous" laws with which I agree, and B) it is okay to violate another's freedom as long as they are compelled to do what I firmly "know" (believe) is right.

In parenting, fear-based thinking is also very clear. Without knowing it, many parents are relying on fear-based techniques while firmly believing they are acting out of love. What do I mean? I mean having rules for your children which are “for their own good” and can following that sentiment with, “If I don’t have this rule, they will grow up to be {insert fear here: delinquent, drug addicted, unhappy, overweight, a criminal, thoughtless, unable to work with others, unable to read/write/spell/think, dead, etc.}.” If that is how you are parenting, you are engaging in fear-based parenting rather than coming from a place of love.

So, now that I’ve introduced you to fear-based perspective, I hope you’ll realize I have not only been there, but I fight against it every day, as it was deeply ingrained in my psyche. I will write about topics when seen from the love perspective. I will write about changing paradigms and shifting focus from fear-based thinking to love-based thinking. I will write about seeing things in a way which you may never have considered or even realized might exist. I hope to bend your mind a bit, I hope to push you (lovingly) from your comfort zone and into unfamiliar territory where you will find great happiness and joy.

Love,
Serenity