

“THE GOLDEN RULE”
MATTHEW 7:12; LUKE 6:31

INTRO: There is no doubt in my mind that most Christians know the GOLDEN RULE: **“DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO UNTO YOU.”** Many of us have learned the GOLDEN RULE in VBS or Sunday School. But the real question is: **DO WE PRACTICE THE GOLDEN RULE?** Let’s examine this great principle Christ has given to us and expects ALL of us who are believers to practice every day of our life.

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I. THE PRINCIPLE OF THE GOLDEN RULE

A. Versions of the GOLDEN RULE existed even before Christ in Hinduism and Buddhism. Even the Rabbinical writings stated the GOLDEN RULE but stated it in a negative way. For instance Rabbi Hillel’s version said:

“WHAT IS HATEFUL TO YOURSELF DO NOT DO TO SOMEONE ELSE.”

B. Jesus stated the GOLDEN RULE in a positive way **ENRICHING ITS** meaning and **UNDERSCORING** that **THIS ONE IMPERATIVE APTLY SUMMARIZES THE WHOLE TEACHING OF THE ETHICAL PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS.**

C. The GOLDEN RULE is the exact **OPPOSITE** of what people ordinarily want to do...**MOST PEOPLE ARE INCLINED TO DO WHAT OTHER HAVE DONE TO THEM IN A NEGATIVE WAY.**

D. The GOLDEN RULE **cannot be consistently practiced by an unsaved person.**

1. It can only be practiced consistently by those who have been made **NEW IN JESUS CHRIST** – 2 Corinthians 5:17

2. It can only be practiced consistently by those who have the **RIGHTEOUSNESS CHRIST** calls for – Matthew 5:20

3. It is an **EVIDENCE** of true salvation.

E. The GOLDEN RULE is not to be practiced because we expect the same in return from others...but because such conduct is the application of all that the **LAW AND THE PROPHETS** have taught.

F. The GOLDEN RULE is the biblical principle by which **EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD OPERATE IN RELATION TO OTHERS.**

G. The GOLDEN RULE starts with **US FIRST** not others.

OBSERVATIONS:

-The word **“THEREFORE”** IN VERSE 12 reflects back to what Christ was teaching in verses 1-11 regarding: Judging others (Vss. 1-5) Praying (Vs. 7), and Giving good gifts (Vss. 8-11).

-The **FULL SCOPE** of the GOLDEN RULE is found in Luke 6:27-36

ILLUSTRATION:

II. THE PRACTICE OF THE GOLDEN RULE

THE PRACTICE OF THE GOLDEN RULE STEMS FROM SEVERAL BIBLICAL COMPONENTS: (10 components to consider)

- A. The Component of Salvation
- B. The Component of Respecting others as God’s Creation
- C. The Component of Obedience to the Word of God.
- D. The Component of a Servants Heart
- E. The Component of Loving Others
- F. The Component of True Humility
- G. The Component of Christ-likeness
- H. The Component of Spiritual Maturity
- I. The Component of Biblical Truth
- J. The Component of Walking in the Spirit

ILLUSTRATION:

LESSON/APPLICATION:

Take a good look at yourself...**DO YOU TREAT OTHERS AS YOU WOULD WANT THEM TO TREAT YOU? REALLY THINK ABOUT THAT.**

- 1) Do you forgive others?
- 2) Are you kind to others?
- 3) Do you give to others?
- 4) Are you merciful and gracious to others?
- 5) Do you maintain good attitudes toward others?
- 6) Do you tolerate others?
- 7) Do you pray for others?
- 8) Do you love others?
- 9) Do you help others?
- 10) Do you reach out to others?