

## Practicing The Golden Rule

### Int.

1. Aim: To show how we must practice the golden rule in the many situation we have in our daily life.
2. Matthew 7:12 "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." NKJV "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."
  - a. This was given to us by Christ
  - b. Paraphrased "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you."
3. This means: *Go and Do Good*
  - a. Not that I merely refrain from harming him, but I am going to do him good.
  - b. What I could rightly or reasonably wish another to do for me, our places being exchanged, is what I must do for him, no more.
  - c. One limitation is understood.
  - d. This law does not require us to do what our fleshly impulses and passions would prompt us to desire one would do to us.
4. Everyone doesn't share the same idea of what feels like a loving thing to do. So when we're trying to "do unto others", we also have to think about not just what we would want, but what we would want if we were them.
5. The Good Samaritan is the Golden Rule man. He lived by Matthew 7:12.
6. We have committed the Golden Rule to memory, let us now commit it to life.
7. How do we practice the Golden Rule ?

## Discussion

### I. YOUNG PEOPLE

- A. Ephesians 6:1-3 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."
- B. Parents
1. Respect them
  2. Obey them - in the Lord
  3. Love them
- C. Brothers and Sisters - Gen. 4:9 "And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?"
1. In place
  2. In chores
  3. In your daily life with each other
- D. At School - Titus 3:1 "to be subject to ruler and authorities"
1. Teachers, coaches, and administrators
  2. Be attentive and helpful
- E. With your Friends - Matthew 5:13-16
1. When a friend is in need or trouble practice the Golden Rule.
  2. When a friend tempts you to sin, stand up and resist. It will help them live better which is what the Golden Rule is.
  3. Stick with them. Don't desert them just because things are going bad for them.
  4. Prov. 18:24 "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother."

## II. HUSBANDS AND WIVES AND PARENTS

- A. To each other - Ephesians 5:23 "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body."
1. Husband to Wife - Ephesians 5:25, 28, 29 "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;" 28. "So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. 29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:
    - a. Treat your wife as a worthy person
    - b. Have sympathy and concern for her
    - c. Show your love for her.
  2. Wife to husband - Ephesians 5:22 "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord."
    - a. Titus 2:4-5 "Obedient to their own husbands"
    - b. Be in subjection to him
    - c. Show your love for him
  3. In all situations of life treat your partner by the Golden Rule and life will be much happier.

- B. To your children - Ephesians 6:4 "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."
1. Train them up right
    - a. This is really practicing the Golden Rule
    - b. Eli - 1 Samuel 3:13 "For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not." - did not do this
  2. Discipline them
    - a. Proverbs 13:24 "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes."
    - b. Proverbs 29:15 "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame."
    - c. Proverbs 29:17 "Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul."
  3. Love them
    - a. Children will perish without love
    - b. They need love like we need love -
    - c. Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

### III. CHRISTIANS MUST PRACTICE THE GOLDEN RULE IN THEIR DAILY LIFE

#### A. As a neighbor

1. Be friendly to your neighbor
2. Be kind to him - Luke 10:25-37 - Good Samaritan
3. Teach him the truth
4. Be good to each other in all situations

#### B. At Work

1. Romans 13:1-2 "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. 2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation."
2. Titus 3:1 "Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,"
3. To your employer
4. To your boss
5. Ephesians 6:5-9
6. To your fellow workers
7. Do an honest days work

#### C. With your enemies

1. Do good for them not bad
2. Romans 12:20 "Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head."

3. Do good to them which despitefully use you - Matthew 5:44 "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;"
4. We overcome evil with good by practicing the Golden Rule with our enemies

#### **IV. CHRISTIANS MUST PRACTICE THE GOLDEN RULE AT CHURCH SERVICES**

##### A. In their Bible classes

1. Given attention to the teacher
2. Have lesson prepared - teacher and pupils in class
3. Be on time

##### B. To their preacher

1. Be awake and interested
2. Give attention to what is being said
3. "Give ear"

##### C. To the song leader

1. Be involved in the song service
2. Follow the song leader

##### D. To Strangers and visitors

1. Greet them and welcome them
2. Speak to them and treat them like a friend
3. Treat them as we would want to be treated if we were a stranger !

## V. WE MUST PRACTICE THE GOLDEN RULE WITH...

### A. Orphan's and widows

1. James 1:27 "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."
2. If you were an orphan or widow what would you want?
3. Care and love and protection

### B. Sick

1. Make sure they receive any medical help they need
2. Visit to cheer them, card or letter or e-mail

### C. Prisoners

1. Many of those in prison realize that they have done wrong and they need and want friends
2. What would you want if you were in prison?
3. Do it for those who are in prison
4. Matthew 25:35-40

### D. Sinners

1. Jesus "Go and sin no more..." John 8:11
2. 1 Peter 3:1 "...without the word"
3. Have compassion and love for them not hatred and a holier than thou attitude
4. At one time we were all sinners; what was it that caused us to want to be a Christian? We need to display this same attitude toward others.

## E. Erring Christians

1. Galatians 6:1 "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted."
2. Treat him like you would like to be treated

## CONCLUSION

1. The golden rule is a wonderful rule to live by
2. James 1:22 "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."
3. Be ye doers of the Golden Rule.
  - a. Practice it
  - b. Jesus practiced it - so we ought to practice it.
4. Paul said 1 Corinthians 11:1 "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."
5. Are you living by the Golden Rule ?
  - a. Young people
  - b. Husbands and wives
  - c. Daily life
  - d. Worship services
  - e. Practice the Golden Rule with all people