

October 8, 2023

Golden Rule

by Rickie Jenkins

“Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets” (Matt.7:12).

Most everyone has their own version of the Golden Rule. God has put this foundational principle in our hearts. It says, if we want to be treated with respect and love, we need to treat others that way first.

This little principle seems so simple, but it is so easy to be violated almost every day. All of us long to be accepted, but we make a game out of tearing, ripping apart, crushing, ignoring, and ridiculing people around us. Sometimes we do it even to those who are closest to us. We would never think of abusing anyone. We are too sophisticated for that. Yet, we gossip, use sarcasm and silence to insert the knife when people don't expect anything. If we are caught, we say, “I was just kidding.”

Living by the Golden Rule involves a conscious choice to be kind, offer respect and honor. It demands words of affirmation and patience with all. It says, “You matter to me!” If we make radical acceptance of others a central value in our lives, amazing things will happen.

First, if we practice this, some of the people who know us best will need to recover from shock. Eventually, they will realize they don't have to protect themselves from us anymore. Then,

slowly, they will begin to give back the acceptance they have received from us. It is that simple. It really is!

Perhaps there is no greater need for the Golden Rule than in the area of forgiveness. See, the Golden Rule gives what others need, not what they deserve. The Golden Rule would help mend wounds and help reconcile those who have fallen out with each other. If we give what we want, we will give what others need. We all want and need the same thing: forgiveness! “We have committed the Golden Rule to memory; let us now commit it to life” (Edwin Markham). This reflects what is true with most people; they know the rule, but don't live by it. If Jesus is truly our Lord, then His “Golden Rule” will govern our life!

Some truths in the word of God are so simple that we overlook their profound nature. Some are used just as children's memory verses. However, the Golden Rule is a yard stick by which we can measure every relationship in our lives. It is easy to understand and apply if we are willing. There is nothing needed more among men today.

This is as old as the law and the prophets . . . This is no new rule, but one inherent in God's will for man in all times. Further, this clearly emphasizes the eternal authority of God. Those

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Gospel Meeting - Benchley, October 8-11

Gospel Meeting - Cedar Park, October 15-18

Ladies' Class - Tuesday, October 10 at 10 a.m.

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

who seek to limit the whole duty of man to humanitarian obligations miss the point. This principle is based on our love for God (Mat. 22:37).

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson's lymphoma has returned and is undergoing chemo.

Dinah Williams continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

Lisa Mullen (Darrell's sister) is undergoing chemotherapy.

Vicki Stevens has cancer and is undergoing treatment.

Debbie McMurray is undergoing immunotherapy.

Mike McMurray will be undergoing triple bypass surgery, scheduled for October 9 at Austin Heart Hospital.

Terry Behrns has been hospitalized but is improving some.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

**To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making s
upplication for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)**

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

Evangelist

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