

The Golden Rule

A large, dark silhouette of a cross is centered in the background. The cross is composed of two thick, rectangular beams intersecting at their centers. The background is a light, hazy sky with a soft gradient from light blue to white.

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

A close-up photograph of a person's face, with their hand covering their eyes. The person appears to be in a state of distress or deep contemplation. The lighting is soft, and the focus is on the texture of the skin and the gesture of the hand.

I. Worldly Philosophies

A. The Flesh Rules

“Well, I’m not hurting anyone else”

18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the **enemies of the cross of Christ:**

19 Whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame - **who set their mind on earthly things.** *Phil.3*

A. The Flesh Rules

B. Might Makes Right

- Powerful people often take from weaker individuals *Mic.2:1-3*
 - It's not what goes into the mouth but what comes out of heart that defiles *Matt.15:19*

A. The Flesh Rules

B. Might Makes Right

C. Legal Is Right

- Paul clearly teaches Christians ought to keep the laws of their society *Rom.13:1-5*
- There is one exception: “We ought to obey God rather than men” *Acts 5:29*

A. The Flesh Rules

B. Might Makes Right

C. Legal Is Right

D. Don't Get Involved

- Wasn't this the philosophy of the priest and the Levite *Lk.10:30-37*

A. The Flesh Rules

B. Might Makes Right

C. Legal Is Right

D. Don't Get Involved

E. Treat Others As They Treat You *Lk.6:35*

35 “But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.

A. The Flesh Rules

B. Might Makes Right

C. Legal Is Right

D. Don't Get Involved

E. Treat Others As They Treat You

**F. Don't Do To Others What You
Don't Want Done To You**

- This states negatively what Jesus states positively!



II. Applying the Golden Rule

A. Toward Our Fellowman

1 Friendly and Courteous

2 Refuse To Spread Rumors *Jas.3:1-10*

36 “But I say to you that for **every idle word men may speak**, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.”

37 For by your words you will be justified, and **by your words you will be condemned.**” *Matt.12*

A. Toward Our Fellowman

1 Friendly and Courteous

2 Refuse To Spread Rumors

3 Don't Embarrass Others

- Some angry or jealous people try to hide their feelings through jokes / *Cor.13:5*

5 Does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil / *Cor.13*

A. Toward Our Fellowman

1 Friendly and Courteous

2 Refuse To Spread Rumors

3 Don't Embarrass Others

4 Don't Let Prejudice Rule

- A careful study of Jesus' life shows His absolute love for all men *Lk.17:11-19*

A. Toward Our Fellowman

B. Apply To Our Family

1 Do I want my spouse to constantly spy on me or to trust me?

2 Parents and children, how would you like to be treated in your present position?

- Why apply passages on kindness and goodness only to non-family? *Eph.4:31-32*

A. Toward Our Fellowman

B. Apply To Our Family

C. Show It To Our Brethren

1 Don't Want To Be Emboldened To Sin

**21 It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine
nor do anything by which your brother stumbles
or is offended or is made weak. *Rom.14***

A. Toward Our Fellowman

B. Apply To Our Family

C. Show It To Our Brethren

1 Don't Want To Be Emboldened To Sin

2 Please Bring Me Out of Sin *Jas.5:19-20*

3 Give Me The Benefit of The Doubt

**- Love “thinks no evil” but actually
“believes all things” / *Cor.13:4-7***

A. Toward Our Fellowman

B. Apply To Our Family

C. Show It To Our Brethren

1 Don't Want To Be Emboldened To Sin

2 Please Bring Me Out of Sin *Jas.5:19-20*

3 Give Me The Benefit of The Doubt

4 Forgive Me of My Sins and Mistakes

- Doesn't Jesus teach this? *Lk.17:3-4*

“Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them” *Matt.7:12a*

Can you imagine how this would change every aspect of our lives?

