

Matthew 7:12
The Golden Rule: Treating Others the Way Our King Treats Us

Matthew 7:7-12 – “So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and Prophets.”

Kingdom citizens love others out of the overflow of their life in Christ

Answering three Golden Rule questions:

1. How do I want to be treated?

Matthew 18:21-35 – “Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

<i>Perspective of the Flesh</i>	<i>Perspective of the Spirit</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">In the flesh I want what is easy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In the Spirit I want what pushes me to Jesus.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">In the flesh I want what brings me glory.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In the Spirit I want what brings God glory.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">In the flesh I want what gives me power.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In the Spirit I want what reminds me of the Gospel.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">In the flesh I want what gives me pleasure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In the Spirit I want what causes me to grow.

2. How have I been treated?

A. With Grace

Ephesians 2:8-9 – *“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”*

B. With Generosity

Matthew 18:21-35: The king is generous beyond any worldly standard or reasonable measure.

C. With Love

Romans 5:8-11 – *“... but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.”*

3. How should I treat others?

A. With Grace – My grace should stem out of the grace that I have been shown in Christ.

B. With Generosity – My generosity should flow from the fact that my father supplies my every need.

C. With Love – My love should be given like someone who knows unconditional love from their Father.

Golden Rule Living:

1. Looks like foolishness to the world, but it looks like obedience to Christ.

2. Is commanded from the one who knows it best, Christ Jesus.

3. Is a tool to be used to make Christ look like the most lavish treasure, not to be favored among men.