

**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.”

**Matthew 22:37-39** – “And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”<sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

**Kingdom life is treating others the way our King treats us.**

**Answering three Golden Rule questions:**

**1. How do I want to be treated?**

<i>Perspective of the Flesh</i>	<i>Perspective of the Spirit</i>
• In the flesh I want what is easy.	• In the Spirit I want what pushes me to Jesus.
• In the flesh I want what brings me glory.	• In the Spirit I want what brings God glory.
• In the flesh I want what gives me power.	• In the Spirit I want what reminds me of the Gospel.
• In the flesh I want what gives me pleasure.	• In the Spirit I want what causes me to grow.

**Galatians 5:17** – “For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.”

**2. How have I been treated?**

**A.** I have been given by Jesus Christ what I never earned or deserved.

**Isaiah 53:5** – “But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.”

**Ephesians 1:7-10** – “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will,

*according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.”*

### **3. How do I treat others?**

**A.** My love is active toward others.

**1 Corinthians 13:4-8** – *“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.”*

**B.** My life bears fruit toward others.

**Philippians 1:9-11** – *“And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”*

#### **Reflection Questions:**

**Q1:** Are you living with a fleshly perspective or a Kingdom perspective?

**Q2:** Have you forgotten the generosity of God in your life through the gospel of Christ?

**Q3:** Who do you need to seek reconciliation with that you have treated sinfully?