

# UNPACKING THE BLESSINGS

Blessed are the **Poor in spirit** for theirs is **the Kingdom** of God.

Thirsty for Right  
Matt 6:1-18

Meek  
Matt 6:19-34

Mourn  
Matt 7:1-6

Poor(Spirit)  
Matt 7:6-12



# THE POOR IN SPIRIT ...

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- Matthew 5:3

Is Expounded by: Mathew 7:7-12 + the coda 7:13-29



# UNPACKING THE BEATITUDE

- 7. Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened unto you.
- 8. For everyone asking receives; and the seeker finds; and to the one knocking, it will be opened.

- Matthew 7:7-8



# UNPACKING THE BEATITUDE

**Also delight yourself in YHWH, and he will give you the desires of your heart.**

**- Psalm 37:4**



# FATHERHOOD OF GOD

9. Or which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?

10. Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?

- Matthew 7:9-10





# FATHERHOOD OF GOD

<sup>11</sup>. So, if you, being **evil**, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your **Father** in the heavens give good things to those who ask Him!

- Matthew 7:11





**CONCLUDING  
THE MAIN SECTION OF  
SERMON ON THE MOUNT**

**The Golden Rule**





# The Golden Rule

Therefore whatever you would prefer people would do to you, you do to them . For this is the Law and the Prophets.

- Matthew 7:12

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF RECIPROCITY





# The Golden Rule

"The maxim '**Treat others how you wish to be treated**'. Various expressions of the rule exist in the tenets of most religions and creeds through the ages, testifying to its universal applicability." – **Anthony Flew** "**A dictionary of Philosophy**", 1979



# ANTHONY FLEW

A colleague of C.S Lewis who was one of the Philosophical fathers of modern Atheism and a signatory to the current Humanist Manifesto (published 2003).

Who...

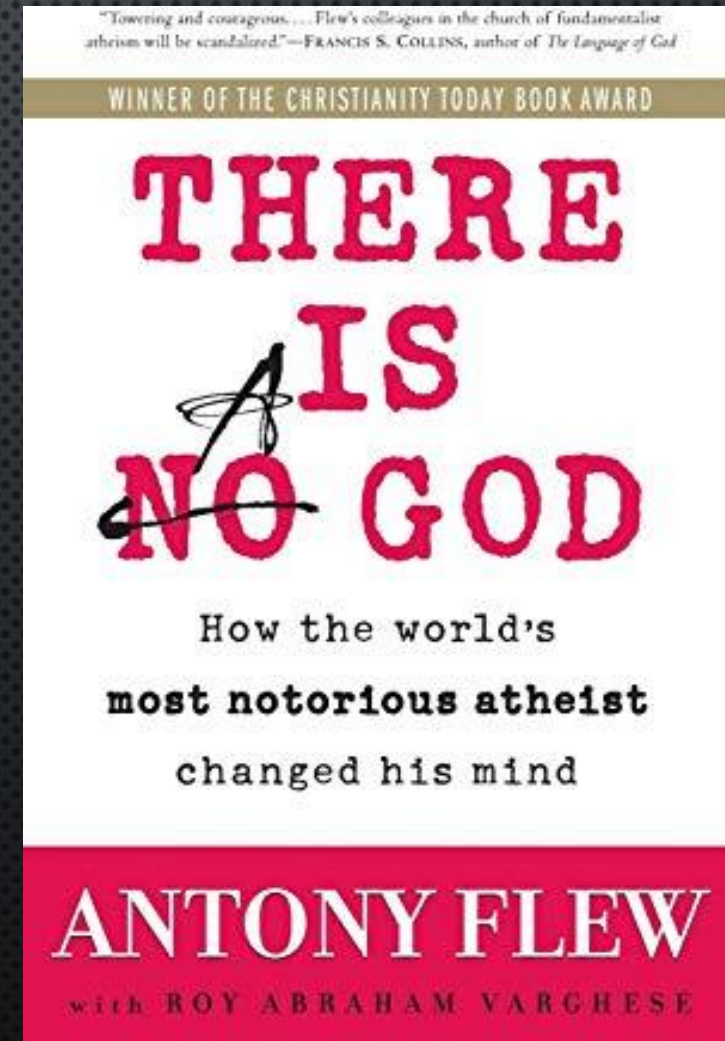




# ANTHONY FLEW

Famously changed his mind and became a deist...

And was corresponding with NT Wright (about Jesus as God the Word) when he died...





# The Golden Rule

When the BBC recently asked if I had absolutely refuted Lewis's Christian apologetic, I replied:

“No. I just didn't believe there was sufficient reason for believing it. But of course when I later came to think about theological things, it seemed to me that the case for the Christian revelation is a very strong one, if you believe in any revelation at all.”





# The Golden Rule

Was Flew Correct?  
(about the Golden Rule)

# The Golden Rule

Does appear a lot in ancient philosophy and religious writing but it can be in one of three forms:

- One should treat others as one would like others to treat oneself (positive or directive form).
- What you wish upon others, you wish upon yourself (empathic or responsive form).
- One should not treat others in ways that one would not like to be treated (negative or prohibitive form).



# The Golden Rule

In 1993 a "Declaration Toward a Global Ethic", was drafted by a gathering of 143 leaders from the Worlds major religions... It was built around an endorsement of the 'Golden Rule'.

**It certainly provides a broad base for a fully human ethic.**

# The Golden Rule

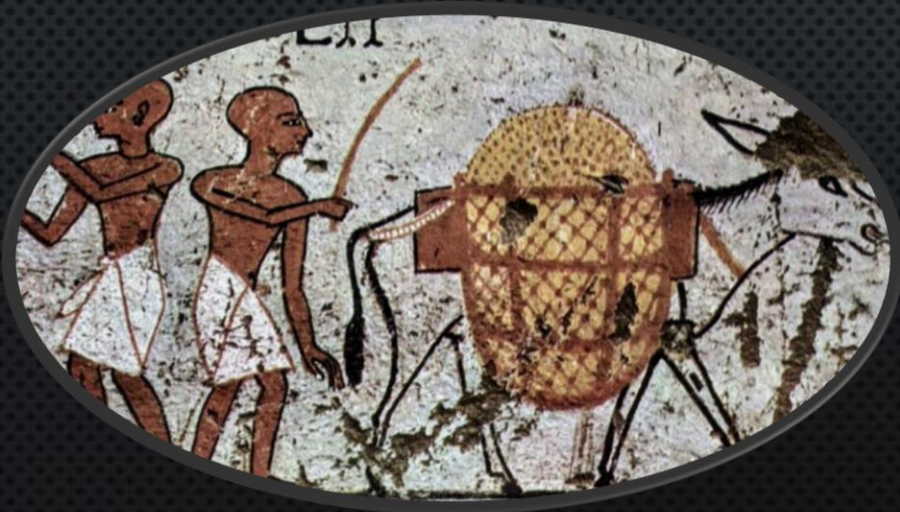
**The Golden Rule from other sources...**



# The Golden Rule

The earliest form is found in an **Ancient Egyptian** story, 'The Eloquent Peasant' (~1850 BC) which reads: **'Do to the doer, to make him do'**.

If interpreted kindly, this is the **Empathic/Responsive Form**.





# The Golden Rule

A Late Period **Ancient Egyptian** papyrus (664–323 BC) contains an early **Negative Version**: ‘**That which you hate to be done to you, do not do to another.**’





# The Golden Rule

The Sanskrit 'Mahabharata' an epic poem (composed from the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC onwards) contains a version of the **positive form**, given as **advice** in a discussion between a wise advisor and a King: '**treat others as you treat yourself**'.

— **Mahābhārata Shānti-Parva 167:9**





# The Golden Rule

The Tamil 'Tirukkural' a collection of wisdom compiled between 200 BC and 500 AD, contains various versions of the **Negative Form**, such as: '**Do not do to others what you know has hurt yourself**'

- Kural 316.





# The Golden Rule

The Pahlavi Texts of Persian Zoroastrianism (composed between 300 BC and 1000 AD) Contain two versions of the Negative Form:

**‘Nature alone is good which refrains from doing to another whatsoever is not good for itself.’**

**Dadisten-I-dinik 94,5;**

and **‘Whatever is disagreeable to yourself do not do unto others.’**

**Shayast-na-Shayast 13:29**





# The Golden Rule

Ancient Greece had multiple versions of the **Negative Form**:

- **"Avoid doing what you would blame others for doing."** – Thales (c. 624 BC – c. 546 BC)
- **"What you do not want to happen to you, do not do it yourself either."** – Sextus the Pythagorean.
- **"Do not do to others that which angers you when they do it to you."** – Isocrates (436–338 BC)



# The Golden Rule

In Rome the Stoic Seneca the Younger (~ 4 BC – 65 AD) expresses a qualified version of the **Positive Form** in a work on the treatment of slaves: "**Treat your inferior as you would wish your superior to treat you.**"

## **RABBI HILLEL (A GENERATION BEFORE JESUS):**

Once there was a gentile who came before Shammai, and said to him: "Convert me on the condition that you teach me the whole Torah while I stand on one foot. Shammai pushed him aside with the measuring stick he was holding.

The same fellow came before Hillel, and Hillel converted him, saying: "That which is despicable to you, do not do to your fellow, this is the whole Torah, and the rest is commentary, go and learn it."

- Babylonian Talmud, Shabbat 31a



# JESUS' VERSION STANDS AT THE **Apex**:

‘Therefore **whatever** you **prefer** for men **to do** to you, **you shall** also do to them’ - **Matthew 7:12**

- **Positive**
- **Exhaustive**
- **Authorative**
- **Sets a ideal standard above what currently is**

# THE WAY THAT LEADS TO LIFE

13. Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.

14. While the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and **those who find it are few.**

- Matthew 7:13-14





# BY THEIR FRUITS YOU WILL KNOW THEM

**15. Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.**

**16. By their fruits you will know them. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?**

**- Matthew 7:15-16**





# BY THEIR FRUITS YOU WILL KNOW THEM

17. Likewise, every good tree grows good fruit, but a bad tree grows bad fruit.

18. A good tree cannot grow bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot grow good fruit

- Matthew 7:17-18





## BY THEIR FRUITS YOU WILL KNOW THEM

**19. Every tree that does not grow good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.**

**20. So then, by their fruit you will know them.**

**- Matthew 7:19-20**





# ENTERING THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

21. Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but *only* he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

- Matthew 7:21





# ENTERING THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

22. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in Your name, and *in* Your name drive out demons and in Your name perform many miracles?'

23. However I will tell them, those lawless workers: 'I never knew you; depart from Me'

- Matthew 7:22-23





# FOUNDATIONS...

24. So everyone who hears these words of Mine and does them is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

25. And the rain fell, and the torrents came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house; but it did not fall, as its foundation was on the rock.

- Matthew 7:24-25





# FOUNDATIONS...

26. But everyone who hears these words of Mine and doesn't do them is like a foolish man who built his house on sand..

27. And the rain fell, and the torrents came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house; and it fell—and its collapse was massive.”

- Matthew 7:26-27





# TEACHING WITH AUTHORITY

28. When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at His teaching,
29. because He taught with *his own authority*, and not as their scribes.

- Matthew 7:28-29





# DOWN THE MOUNTAIN

1. Having come down from the mountain, great crowds followed Him.

- Matthew 8:1

