

THE FATHER'S GOLDEN RULE Mt 7:12

Jesus set forth a simple yet profound positive statement summarizing the righteousness that must be employed toward others by those who seek to be obedient disciples in his Kingdom and who seek to enjoy fulfilling and meaningful lives and relationships.

I. REFLECTION

"Therefore, however you want people to treat you..."

Jesus instructs us to conduct a personal reflection on how we wish and desire to be treated by others.

Quantity: "in everything" – no circumstances or situations are excluded.

What actions by others would you most desire in this circumstance? After you have made that determination then you are prepared to respond.

II. RESPONSE

Having reflected on your desired treatment, you are in turn to treat others in the same manner and with the same quality of treatment!

Quality —"so treat them"; "do ye even so" —with the same quality; in *this manner; in this way;* denotes the degree of intensity

This is an obligation and opportunity Christ places with you.

III. REASON

"This" —refers to this teaching He is now giving – The Golden Rule. "sums up" —the law and the prophets. To act in this manner, in constant deeds of love, is to bring to expression that which the law and the prophets taught and required.

We live this way, not just because we expect the same in return, but because such conduct is the goal of the Law and the Prophets as taught through the centuries—a world where only good is done to others.

CONCLUSION: This rule provides a powerful yet flexible guideline that helps make righteous and moral decisions without the need for numerous laws and regulations. It is in essence OBEEDIENCE to all the teaching of Scripture. No other teaching more clearly displays the heart and ministry of Jesus nor is so central to the righteousness of the kingdom and the practice of discipleship.

To do good to others is to mirror the activity of the Father (7:11), which was fully displayed in the coming of God's Son to die for us.

What difference would it make in your life and the lives of those around you if you decided to faithfully practice and live by this rule every day in every encounter?

^{NAS} Matthew 7:12 "Therefore, however you want people to treat you, so treat them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."

^{KJV} Matthew 7:12 "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."

^{NIV} Matthew 7:12 "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."