

## Golden Living

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*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.*

*– Matthew 7:12 –*

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Most everyone is likely familiar with what has come to be known as the “Golden Rule”. Agnostic and atheistic academics would have us believe that Christ’s utterance of this standard of living is not unique. They cite the ancient Egyptians, the Greeks, Buddha, the Hindus, etc., and stake the claim that our Lord borrowed from these older religions. But nothing could be more patently absurd. While it is true that most religions in their vague and obscure search for truth stumble upon the logical standard of not doing unto others what you would not want done to you, Jesus uniquely pulls back the curtain and reveals from the very heart of God what even the Law of Moses could not fully communicate – a selfless directive to living a large-hearted and mercy-filled life that has the power to transform everyone with whom we come in contact.

Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them. “Therefore.” We can live this way only because we have a heavenly Father Who treats us so graciously, giving us all the good things that He does, not due to any deservedness on our part, but simply because He loves us and pities our condition. “Do”. This is the key that differentiates Christ’s Rule from all other religions, and also fulfills the Law of God. The emphasis is not upon the negative, but upon the positive. It anticipates a Spirit-born child of God with the love of God shed abroad in the heart. It goes beyond “thou shalt not kill” and encourages us to actively love mankind, even our enemies. It does not have us stop at “thou shalt not steal”, but constrains us to give liberally and sacrificially of our time, talent, and treasure from the vast stewarded resource of our Father’s storehouse. It transforms “thou shalt not covet” into a genuine spirit that rejoices with others at their advancements and achievements, even when we don’t necessarily experience the same. It makes “thou shalt not bear false witness” nigh impossible because we are so consumed with truth telling and honest living before God and men.

Yes, we can do unto others because of what God has done for us. Like as the second Person of the Triune Godhead stepped out of eternity into time, donned the mantle of human experience, and was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin, even so we by the Spirit of Christ can empathize with others and turn our natural human actions and reactions into God-honoring, tangible love that has the power to melt the iciest of hearts. With God’s help, may we find the opportunity today with those that cross our paths to do unto them as we would have them do unto us. -- D. Murcek