

THE GOLDEN RULE

By Keith Greer

In one passage of Scripture is considered "**The Golden Rule for Life and Living**" The "**Golden Rule**" (*as men have called it*), is really the rule of love.

"Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 7:12)

A summary statement of every obligation the Jew had to his fellow man can be found in the following passages:

"Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.'" (Matthew 22:37-40)

Paul made a similar statement in the Roman letter. "For the commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery, , 'You shall not murder', 'You shall not steal, 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'You shall not covet,'" and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself. "{Romans 13:9}

All people in the human race operate under some code of conduct in their lives. Allow me to suggest just a few.

Might-Makes Right. If they have the might they take what others have. It is the strong over the weak. Power over weakness.

Treat Others As They Treat You. No this is not same as the statement of Jesus. If people treat you well then you do the same. If they deal with you in an evil way then the same is returned unto them.

The Self Rule. This rule, which is quite popular, feeds the carnal pleasures of the flesh. Clearly selfish and self-serving.

All man-made rules have one thing in common-they miss the spirit of what Jesus taught. Why? These rules do not consider the other person's view. Many of man's rules are reactionary. We react to what is said or done to us. How others are treated is solely based upon their treatment of me or others.

Let me make one point perfectly clear, my conduct towards others is not based upon their treatment of me! How they treat me cannot influence or decide my treatment of them.

What is the implication of this rule? First, it is something which must be put into action. Not just lip service. 1 John 3:17,18; Galatians 6:10.

Includes all men under all circumstances. The heathen, enemy, unbelievers, brethren, friends and family. Business, church, community, school and all other relationships. Status and position do not alter our actions. It is reasonable and fair. Nothing unfair is imposed by this rule. Equal treatment and equal justice for all.

The correct application of this rule would make this world a better place. What about the Lord's church? How many problems, difficulties, poor attitudes and disagreements would go away in one day if this rule were applied correctly by God's people? Hurt feelings caused by gossip and mistrust would never be an issue among God's people. Simple isn't it—just treat people like you want to be treated. My friend, do you practice it? ***