

Gospel of Matthew “The Golden Rule”
Matthew 7:12
September 11, 2022

Matthew 7:12

12 “So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

“So then.”

Matthew 7:7-11

7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. 9 Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? 11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

“for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

Leviticus 19:18

“Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.

Luke 10:26-28

26 “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”
27 He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”
28 “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

Romans 13:8-10

8 Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9 For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Galatians 5:14

14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

James 2:8

8 If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well.

The Golden Rule *is* the Law and Prophets.

Matthew 7:12

12 "So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

The difference between the negative and the positive.

"A lack of imagination is a lack of love."

"Others" encompasses anyone in our lives.

From imagination to Initiation.

Luke 6:27-36

27 "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29 If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. 30 Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.

32 "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. 35 But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

The generosity of God changes the rules of engagement with others.

"Among those who live as Jesus' apprentices there are no relationships that omit the presence and action of Jesus. We never go "one on one"; all relationships are mediated through him. I never think simply of what I am going to do with you, to you, or for you. I think of what we, Jesus and I, are going to do with you, to you, and for you."

- Dallas Willard

The golden rule is way of being in the world aligned with the character of God.

Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you in our Sunday gathering?
- Read Matthew 7:12
- Can you articulate the negative and the positive expression of the Golden Rule. How is the negative expression about limiting bad behavior and the positive something much more?
- When Jesus says, "for this is the Law and Prophets," what do you think this means?
- How does the Golden Rule invite us to use our imagination?

- When you have loved, helped, or served someone in a surprising way? What did you experience through it?
- Discuss the idea that “your most difficult relationships are the ones that will be most affected by your love.” What is your most difficult relationship? How would the way you want to be loved help you know how to love them?
- Make the case that knowing a generous and merciful God flows to others in generous and merciful ways.
- Use your imagination. Is there any way our Grow Group could express the Golden Rule together?