

Life in the Kingdom Family

The Foundation of the Golden Rule



Jesus teaches the Golden Rule

- **Matt. 7:12**—“*Do to others whatever you want them to do to you.*” This is the essence of what is taught in the law of the Moses (Torah, Pentateuch—Gen., Ex. Lev., Numbers, Deuteronomy) and in the prophets.”
- **Luke 6:31**—Jesus states directly the golden rule:
“*Do to others as you would like them to do to you.*”

Jesus teaches The Law of Reciprocity/Sowing and Reaping

○ **Matt.7: 1-2:** “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. You will be treated as you treat others. *The measure you give will be the measure you get back.*”

○ **Luke 6:37-38** —“Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven. Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. *The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.*”

Law of Reciprocity (and Increase)

- --**Hosea 8:7**—“They sow the wind, but they will reap the whirlwind.” – law of increase
- --**The Multiplication of Seeds** – 1 wheat kernel into hundreds!

Jesus' four examples of the GR embedded in law of reciprocity

- Luke 6:37-38—two negative actions (don't do) and two positive ones (do)
- 1) **Don't judge others**, or you will be judged “He's an idiot” --name-calling a very grievous sin in the ancient world—stealing of identity
- 2) **Don't condemn others**, or condemnation will come back against you – “condemn”—“to judge worthy of punishment, to pronounce punishment (even destruction) on someone or something,”—to condemn a prisoner to death by electric chair; to condemn a row of houses to demolition – condemning means imposing punishment on the offender.

Jesus' four examples of the GR embedded in law of reciprocity

Luke 6:37-38—two negative actions (don't do) and two positive ones (do)

- **3. Forgive others**— release from obligation to pay you back for wrongs done against you—a legal term—to remit, to cancel a debt – forgive others, and others will forgive you, and so will God...
- **4) Give to others**, and you will receive (it will be given to you)—an abundant amount given by others to you. “The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.” 0 giving produces 0 return!

Other statements of the Golden Rule (or Golden Law)

- *“That which you hate to be done to you, do not do to another.”*
- *”Do not do to others that which angers you when they do it to you.”*
- *“That which is disagreeable to yourself do not do to others.”*
- *“Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.”*

Brotherly love is the foundation of Old Testament ethics

- “You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against your kinsfolk. Love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.” **Lev. 19:18**
- ”The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens. You shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.” **Lev. 19:34**
- Hillel the Elder: *“What is hateful to you, do not do it to others. This is the whole Torah (Law). The rest is explanation. Go and learn.”*

**Love God and Love Others:
Foundation of Jesus' kingdom
ethics**

- **Matt. 22: 37-40**—Greatest commandment? Jesus quotes Deut. 6:5 and Lev. 19:18 – Love God—the first and greatest commandment; love your neighbor—the second greatest commandment is “like it” (equal to it)
- **James calls Lev. 19:18 “the royal law**—James 2:8—“Yes indeed, it is good when you obey the royal law as found in the scriptures—‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”



Goal of Jesus' Kingdom Teaching

**Turn the “lex talonis” into the royal law of love—on
a community-wide basis—church, family, town,
state, nation, world**

An Example: Turning wrath into peace

○ Proverbs 15:1-- “A soft answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger.” NLT: “A gentle answer
deflects anger, but harsh words make tempers flare.”

Seeing How It Works

- **The mirror—**
- **The boomerang –**
- **Current Reaping of Old Sowing**
 - Misplaced blame: not others, us
 - Repent, and sow only good words and deeds

Applying the Golden Rule to Life in Our Church

Family Life

- ***Don't Be Reactive:*** Don't wait around for others to show love to you first!
- ***Be Proactive:*** What you want done to you by others, do that to others first
- Want not to be rejected? then don't reject others; accept them,
- Want friends? – Be a friend, initiate friendship with others
- Want to be greeted with joy? Greet others with joy!
- Want others to forgive you? Forgive those who sin against you... quickly, daily

Applying the Golden Rule to Life in Our Church

Family Life

- Want to be given to by the Lord through people? Give to the Lord and to people—to your church (10 percent); to mission works, to ministries that bless you, to those in need
- Want to be praised, honored, and uplifted? First praise, honor, and uplift others
- Want your spouse to be attentive to your needs, to love and be kind to you? Be that way first to him/her
- Want for people not to be angry with you, speak evil of you? Do not be angry/speak evil with them first.

Healthy Spiritual Family: Live the Golden Rule

The issue really is:

- you go first
- be the initiator in showing God's love to others
- take the first step acting toward others as you want them to act toward you!
- **Practice** the Golden Rule and God, through the law of reciprocity and increase

This will transform your life!