

Putting the Golden Rule to Work in My Life

Introduction: (Text – Matthew 7:12) A life that worthwhile is one that has given of itself to others—not for praise, but for helping others less fortunate. (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8)

I. The Golden Rule Demands Honest Introspection

- A. Paul instructed the Corinthian brethren: “but let a man examine himself...” (1 Cor. 11:28); and also, “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith...” (2 Cor. 13:5).
- B. Honest self-examination begs the question: “What do I want?” or, “What do I need?” [Emotionally, spiritually, & physically]
- C. So what do we really need more than anything else? Loving Acceptance. Why?
 - 1. Disease – Some are seriously ill, face daily pain, and feel alone.
 - 2. Death – Creates a void that in many ways is irretrievable.
 - 3. Divorce – It is compounding: dissolution; rejection; victimization.
 - 4. Departure – A natural/normal occurrence when children leave.
 - 5. Disagreement – Severe disagreement causes separation.
 - 6. Discouragement – Everyone gets discouraged from time to time.
- D. Why are these traumatic problems? They illustrate man’s need for interaction, communication, security of belonging, loving acceptance.

II. The Golden Rule Calls for Sincere Application

- A. “Whatever you want men to do you, do also to them...” (Cf. Rom. 12:9-18)
 - 1. Communication - a good family shares important information.
 - 2. Compassion - Patience & understanding go far in relationships.
 - 3. Kindness - forebears and prevents retaliation. (1 Cor. 13:4)
 - 4. Forgiveness/Mercy - If we expect mercy from God...
 - 5. Occasional Assistance - Who hasn’t been down & out in life?
 - 6. Prayer - The relevance of Ephesians 6:18.
- B. Christianity is learning to explore the ways we desire to be treated, and then practice those principles as we relate to others in the world.

Conclusion: May we continue to teach the “Golden Rule” to our children, and most importantly, may we learn to apply it as we deal with others in this life. It may very well determine if we have God’s acceptance or not.