

## THE "GOLDEN" RULE

### Matthew 7:12

**Introduction:** Although God will never be fully understood by any person, no matter how spiritual he/she may be, God has made His will very clear. God has done to us, just as He wants us to do to Him. God has given a very short but very clear guide and it is called the "golden" rule.

- It reveals how God wants His Family to live and act.
- It shows what life in a perfect world is like.

**1. The Golden Rule** is a one sentence statement that embraces ALL human behavior.

**2. The Golden Rule** demands TRUE law and justice.

- It is not negative or passive, yet:
- It tells us how NOT to behave.
- It restrains us.

**3. The Golden Rule** is concerned with true love and with POSITIVE, active behavior.

- It is more than NOT doing wrong (lying, cheating, stealing, etc.).
- It is more than just doing good (helping, caring, giving, etc.).
- It is looking, searching and seeking ways to do the good you would want others to do to you.
- It is seeking ways to treat others as you would want them to treat you.

**4. The Golden Rule** teaches the whole law:

- *"...Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself..."*
- How do you want others to treat you? Then do likewise to others.

**5. Two simple rules** can change our whole society as well as a single person:

- Treat God as you want God to treat you.
- Treat others as you want others to treat you.

**6. How to practice the Golden Rule:**

- Don't treat others the way that they treat you - good for good, evil for evil, etc.
- Don't treat others the way they think they should be treated.
- Don't treat others the way you think they should be treated.
- Treat others the way you want them to treat you.

### CONCLUSION:

1. A believer's faith is empty unless he/she is living out the Golden Rule.
2. How do you want others to treat you? Judge you? Criticize you?
3. This rule makes everyone equal.
  - wealthy, famous, powerful, poor, unknown.
  - all are to treat each other as they would want to be treated.
4. This rule could bring world-wide peace overnight.
5. To live by this rule is the wisest thing a person can do. It assures a good life.