

20190810 Matthew 7:12-14 The Golden Rule

Do to others what you would have them do to you. Enter the narrow gate.....

Prayer



Most all recognize the "golden rule". Even though who don't care about God recognize this concept. Sometimes it is called Karma, etc. It is an ancient rule of ancient cultures. Confucius is credited with saying this. Rabbi Hillel a decade before Jesus said, "What is hateful". summed up the law and

Jesus seems to be the only person who stated it in the "positive" tense. DO TO OTHERS WHAT YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO TO YOU. In the positive sense it expands the rule greatly.

When you go to school today Do not hurt anyone is a big, but When you go to school today do good to everyone! That is an active purposeful rolee and that is what Jesus calls us to do.



We are being called to be proactive and to do for others. Imagine how different the world would be if we just did this. If we did this for a week here at UGBC, what an amazing week we would have.

Their message was good, but the method in the world was bad. We all have an old sin nature that keeps us from being able to do it like we're supposed to. And the world keeps God out of everything.

The whole "love" of the 1960's sort of faded into the sunset. That doesn't work and communism doesn't work because we are selfish beings. I'm selfish, and you're selfish. We can be super giving for a little while and then we stop living for others and start living for ourselves.

This Golden Rule cannot work without the power of the Holy Spirit. Someone who treats others like he or she really wants to be treated can ONLY do that through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus is preaching to Believers, not to unbelievers. It's a wonderful mantra but apart from God working in our lives this ALWAYS ends in disaster. Can I truly love others like I want to be treated? Yes, but only through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Paul writes, "About brotherly love we do not need to write you because you yourselves have been taught by God....yet we urge" Paul acknowledges that this kind of love is ONLY a work of

God where God teaches us empowering us, and urging us on to love others. Also, we are urged to do it "more and more". Paul is acknowledging that the old sin nature is there to erode the work of God. Can we do this? Can we love and care like the Golden Rule. Can we do it perfectly? No. Weeds are always waiting to choke out the fruit of the garden.

Look at verse 12. Jesus says, "This sums up the law and the prophets". This is a summary statement of what God wants from each and every believer. In verse 13 Jesus is telling us that this is a "narrow gate". The Greek means the gate is "small" and the road is "narrow". He is telling us that there is a path that leads to life and there is another path that leads to destruction. But the thing that is different about them is that one is for the "few" and the other path is for the "many".

Living for the world is easy. Living for the Lord is more difficult. Why? Because you can't live His way without His help. That's what the Holy Spirit is all about.

Here's three ways this defines our faith. This means that the faith t

1) Our faith is a narrow faith - Ephesians 2:8-9 This is not from yourself, not by works, so that no one can boast. It is a faith that does not come by being a "good person". It comes by the saving work of God in each of our lives. Christianity is different because you cannot be saved by being a "good person". All other religions promise something for something.

Whether it is passing out leaflets, feeding the poor, etc. it is a promise to get something for doing something. Christianity does not teach this. All other religions teach that you by your efforts and good works will make you good enough. This is what makes Christianity "narrow". Faith in Christ takes boasting out of your vocabulary.

To be a Christian I have to confess that I have not lived a good life and there's nothing that I can do about it. It requires me to come and merely accept and receive the gracious gift that God has given to me. There is nothing you can do to contribute to your salvation. It is a narrow door. Most of the world will not put up with Christianity because it takes away the ability to boast.

Remember the story of the wedding banquet. Many were invited and no one would come. They made all kinds of excuses about coming. But then, the rabble were invited.

2) Our lifestyle

3) Jesus Himself

