

GLEANINGS FROM THE
GOLDEN RULE
Matthew 7:12

**Tonight, we'll examine some aspects of the Golden Rule as we seek
a better understanding of what the command encourages**

I. THE REVELATION

A. A PLAIN COMMAND

1. This is simple and not complex ... it is not hard to understand
2. Consider a complex rule compared to a clear one

B. A PRECISE COMMAND

1. There are no loopholes > "In everything" is how it starts ... no exceptions
2. See the Lawyer's attempt to find one in Luke 10:25-37

II. SOME CONSIDERATIONS

A. HOW DO WE WANT TO BE TREATED?

1. Think about it
2. Understand our nature > Realize that we always prefer good treatment

B. DO WE RESPOND TO OTHERS OUT OF HABIT?

1. We might say things like, "That's the way I've always treated them."
2. Have we ever asked if that's the way they want to be treated?
3. We can wrongly assume that they don't mind the way we treat them

C. WHAT TYPE OF TREATMENT IS EXPECTED?

1. Active: Doing something > See James 2:15-17
2. Positive: Not just avoiding something > Consider Romans 13:9
3. Thoughtful: Putting ourselves in their situation and responding accordingly

Over please >

III. OUR MOTIVATIONS

- Why do we do good?

A. THE WORLD'S REASONS

1. Selfishness: I benefit from treating others right
2. Ethics: They believe doing good to others is their highest achievement
 - But what does God say is primary? - See Matthew 22:36-40
3. Common Grace: Sometimes sinners actually do good things
 - See Acts 27:39-28:10

B. THE CHRISTIAN'S RESPONSES

1. Because of obedience: This is what the Law and Prophets says to do
2. Because of salvation - See I John 4:7
3. Because of the Holy Spirit - Note Romans 8:3-8, Galatians 5:22 and Philippians 2:13
4. Because of love - Read I John 3:16-18
5. Because of godliness
 - a. Doing good to all men - Galatians 6:9
 - b. Enduring and not losing heart - Hebrews 12:3

CONCLUSION:

Could we create a utopia by having only one law, such as the Golden Rule?

Why would we still not have a perfect world?

- Because the most important law is not treating each other like we want to be treated, but rather loving God with all our heart, mind and soul. (Matthew 22:37)

What should we do?

- **Love God and love others and let Him decide when His perfect kingdom will be established**