

“The Golden Rule and the Work of the Church”

Matt. 7:7-12

Introduction

- I. “The Golden Rule” may be one of the most familiar teachings of Jesus, but is it really one of the most obeyed?
- II. This simple, but powerful, way of life allows for each individual to sympathize or empathize with his fellow man.
- III. The work of the church would greatly improve if this principle were kept in the forefront of our minds.

Discussion

- I. “The Golden Rule” and evangelism
 - A. If I were an alien sinner in the world, would I want someone to come and preach/teach to me (Mark 16:15:16; Matt. 9:36-38; Luke 15:3-10)?
 - B. What if I were an erring child of God, would I want someone to tell me the way home (Gal. 6:1-2; Jas. 5:19-20)?
 - C. “The Golden Rule” keeps me remembering that if I want these things, then I should strive to make sure others have the same opportunities.
- II. “The Golden Rule” and edification
 - A. Do I ever get distraught as a child of God?
 - B. What about my fellow Christian?
 1. If I would want to be uplifted and encouraged, then I should do my part to make sure my brother receives such as well (Eph. 4:29-32).
 2. I should also be forgiving toward my brother (Col. 3:12-14).
- III. “The Golden Rule” and benevolence
 - A. How many of us have “fallen on hard times?”
 1. Have we ever wondered how we were going to pay a bill or buy groceries for our families?
 2. Did we feel uneasy asking for help, and possibly would not do such because of pride?
 3. Let us remember those feelings when someone is genuinely in need.
 - a. Instead of waiting on someone to ask, which is sometimes hard, we can extend aid proactively (Eph. 4:28; Gal. 6:10).
 - b. We will truly show the one in need to we empathize.
 - B. If I would want someone to help me, then I should be ready and willing to help a legitimate other.

Conclusion

- I. “The Golden Rule” helps the church stay focused on its jobs.
- II. “The Golden Rule” helps each Christian to understand the needs of others instead of thinking only of self.