

“An Exposition of the Golden Rule”

(Sunday Morning January 21st, 2024)

Passage: Matthew 7:12

Prov 18:21 “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit”

Similar ethical phrases existed before Jesus ever came to this earth and almost every religion has some form of this one, but Jesus changed it and the change that Jesus made to it was a p_____ one.

I. The W_____ Way to Interpret This Phrase

1) It Should Not be Interpreted in a C_____ Way

In the context, this is teaching that the way we treat our fellow man will also have some bearing on how our Lord will treat us when we bring our r_____ to Him .

Matt 6:14-15 “14 For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 “But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions”.

2) It Should Not be Interpreted in a C_____ Way

We should try our best to view things from another person’s perspective; and then, we should endeavor to do for them what t_____ would want us to do for them.

Phil 2:4 “do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interest of others”

3) It Should Not be Interpreted in a C_____ Way

Phil 3:12 “Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.”

Matt 27:37-40 (Reference)

Ideally, this command should bring us to our knees; it should cause us to see that we are s_____ b_____ and in need of the grace of God.

II. The R_____ Way to Interpret This Phrase

1) It Should be Interpreted in a R_____ Way

Gal 6:7 “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.”

Prov 26:27 “The man who sets a trap for others will get caught in it himself. Roll a boulder down on someone, and it will roll back and crush you” (TLB)

Prov 11:25 “A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed” (NIV)

Question = Do you think that a Christian can afford to be kind and generous to others?

Answer = _____

Heb 13:5 “Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you, nor will I ever forsake you.’”

2) It Should be Interpreted in a R_____ Way

Exod 22:21 "You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt"

Eccl 7:21-22 "21 Also, do not take seriously all words which are spoken, so that you will not hear your servant cursing you. 22 For you also have realized that you likewise have many times cursed others"

You don't want others treating you with a j_____ and c_____ spirit; so, you should not do that to anyone yourself.

Rom 15:2 "Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification..."

3) It Should be Interpreted in a R_____ Way

This is how Jesus wants us to treat all other people including our e_____.

Luke 6:32 "...even sinners love those who love them"

Luke 6:34 "...even sinners lend to sinners in order to receive back the same amount"

Luke 6:35 "But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men"

Rom 5:5 "...the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us"