

Last actual command of the Sermon on the Mount

- Familiar & popular but not fully followed. Why?
 - Comprehensive & idealistic
 - Something's missing ...

Matthew 7:12

Therefore, whatever you want others to **do for you**, **do also the same** for them, for this is the **Law and the Prophets**.

Golden Rule:

- Jesus states it **positively** → puts His people in the proactive position
 - We live reactively and act with reservation/hesitation

Golden Rule:

- Jesus does not make **exceptions**
 - We make exceptions and have good reasons for doing so

Golden Rule:

- Jesus takes us beyond the boundaries of our **strength & understanding**
 - Our sin, their sin and who we are called to be in the middle of it

What's missing???

→ The most important word of the Golden Rule: **Therefore** (or So)

How do we *really* believe God works in our lives?

- If I DO this, then God will ... → Transactional
- You must do this ... → *Do better & try harder* → Our strength & ability

God always works by and through the **grace** He gives.

→ His **grace** is how we **keep** His commands.

1 Peter 5:10a

The God of **all** grace ...

Hebrews 4:15-16

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with **our weaknesses**, but One who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet **without** sin. 16 Therefore, let us

approach the **throne of grace** with boldness, so that we may **receive mercy and find grace** to help us in time of **need**.

Where is/what is the **grace that **empowers** us to keep the Golden Rule???**

Matthew 7:1-5

“**Do not judge**, so that you won’t be judged. ²For you will be judged by the same standard with which you judge others, and you will be measured by the same measure you use. ³Why do you look at the **splinter** in your brother’s eye but don’t notice the **beam of wood** in your own eye? ⁴Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the splinter out of your eye,’ and look, there’s a beam of wood in your own eye? ⁵Hypocrite! **First** take the beam of wood out of your eye, and **then** you will see clearly to take the splinter out of your brother’s eye.

Problem: → Golden Rule Loophole

More sensitive to the sins of others than to our own

- **Self-righteousness: best about you, worst about them**
- **Fault-finding; condemning**
- **Hypocrisy**
- **Distracted by grievance & offense**

1) Grace of personal **repentance**

→ **Mindset: **Worst Sinner****

I Timothy 1:15

This saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”—and I am **the worst** of them.

I Timothy 1:16

But I **received mercy** for this reason, so that in me, **the worst** of them, Christ Jesus might demonstrate His extraordinary patience as an **example** to those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

Flip the Script:

First, **sinner; then sinned **against**.**

Matthew 7:6 (CSB)

Don’t give what is holy to **dogs** or toss your pearls before **pigs**, or they will trample them under their feet, turn, and tear you to pieces.

Dogs & Pigs

- No spiritual hunger
- Fail to cherish & value Christ
- Might want help but not transformation

2) Grace of **wisdom & spiritual discernment**

Mindset: Who gets my **best energy** (~Golden Rule)?

No **offense** at how people are treating me but **wise & discerning** about how they are **responding** to Christ (~pearl).

Matthew 7:7-11

“**Ask**, and it will be given to you. **Seek**, and you will find. **Knock**, and the door will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. ⁹Who among you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ¹¹If you then, **who are evil**, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more** will your Father in heaven **give good things** to those who **ask** Him.

3) Grace of **praying to the Father**

→ God has given His Son (~pearl)

Mindset: **Beggar** before the Lord yet **heir** as His son/daughter

“*Therefore ...*”

→ Following the Golden Rule is the **overflow** of how our **Father** treats us in Christ.

God gets the **glory** when we follow the Golden Rule because He gives the **grace**.

Cooperation with this Grace:

- Reflection before reaction (~ricochet principle)
- Daily appropriation
- Live for the opportunity