
NOTES

The Golden Rule - Matthew 7:12 “So in **everything**, do to **others** what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”

- One should treat others as one would like others to treat oneself (positive or directive form).
- One should not treat others in ways that one would not like to be treated (negative or prohibitive form).
- What you wish upon others, you wish upon yourself (empathic or responsive form).

Most religions have a similar version of Matt.7:12

- **Confucianism:** “Do not do to others what you do not want them to do to you” (*Analects* 15:23)
- **Hinduism:** “This is the sum of duty: do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you” (*Mahabharata* 5:1517)
- **Buddhism:** “Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful” (*Udanavarga* 5:18)

Looking at the Golden Rule through the lens of I Cor.13:4-8

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails.”

In context this text is written to the Church. Paul discusses the body of Christ in I Cor. Chapters 12-14.

1. Be **Patient** – not easily angered but honoring of others.
Intentionally try to understand others.

Colossians 3:12-13

NIV “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and **patience**. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

Amplified Bible “So, as God’s own chosen people, who are holy [set apart, sanctified for His purpose] and well-beloved (by God Himself), put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and **patience** [which has the power to endure whatever injustice or unpleasantness comes, with good temper]; bearing graciously with one another, and willingly forgiving each other if one has a cause for complaint against another; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so should you forgive.”

James 1:2-8; Proverbs 19:11; Proverbs 25:15; Ecclesiastes 7:8; Isaiah 7:13; Romans 2:4; Romans 9:22; 2 Corinthians 6:6; Colossians 1:11; Colossians 3:12-13; 1 Timothy 1:16; 2 Timothy 3:10; 2 Timothy 4:2; Hebrews 6:12; James 5:7

2. Be **Kind** – Ready to forgive.

Ephesians 4:32 “Be **kind** and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

Proverbs 12:25 “Anxiety weighs down the heart, but a **kind** word cheers it up.”

Proverbs 14:31 “Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is **kind** to the needy honors God.”

3. Be **Content** - to limit (oneself) in requirements, desires, or actions.

Philippians 4:12 “I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being **content** in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.”

1 Timothy 6:6 “godliness with **contentment** is great gain.”

4. Be a **Servant**

1 Peter 4:10 “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to **serve others**, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

Gal. 5:13 “For you, were called to freedom; only do not let your freedom become an opportunity for the sinful nature (worldliness, selfishness), but through love **serve and** seek the best for one another.”

Ps. 100:2; Matt. 4:10; Matt. 6:24; Matt. 20:28; Rom. 7:6.

In what ways could I act better towards others in the future?

Which one of the four themes do I struggle the most with?

What can I change so I will live more aware and caring of others around me?

