

The Golden Rule

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility, value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests, but each of you to the interests of others. In your relationships with one another have the same mindset as Christ Jesus. (Philippians 2:3-5)

From cradle to grave, John 3:16 encapsulates the most important message a person needs to know: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” What a foundation for all that we do in life!

While John 3:16 guides our eternity, Philippians 2 is a wonderful summary. If you have ever wondered how transforming those words are, consider what would happen if everyone followed them! What would this world be like without selfish ambition or vain conceit? Can you imagine it?

What about humility? Humility is more than letting the other guy cut ahead of you in the grocery store line. It is an attitude that knows, “Everyone is better than I am”! Now, to preempt any psycho-babble about self-esteem, consider what this really means. One’s self-esteem is measured not by what one thinks about himself or herself but by what they think of *others*.

It’s easy to look after our own interests, isn’t it? Self-esteem that is based on God’s Word is two-fold: looking out for ourselves and also looking out for others. Can it really be done? Is it possible to be this sacrificial, this loving, and this focused? Yes – just look at Jesus Christ. He is indeed the perfect example and model to follow and imitate. This example also serves as a Christian’s guideline of godly living.

When we were children our parents taught us the Golden Rule: do o others as you would have them do to you. According to this portion of Scripture, the real rule for living is actually to do more for others than you expect of yourself. Don’t be selfish, don’t be vain, don’t be proud, and don’t be conceited. Rather, be humble, sacrificial, and compassionate.

It is from such a loving heart that our Lord, while on earth, admonished those who sinned. He knew that sin separates sinners from God. It is with that heart that our Lord gave up some “vacation time” to minister to the needs of others. His love compelled Him to supremely concern Himself above others — to the very point of death. He prayed that their sins would not cost them their salvation.

As people face challenges with their families, health, or the day-to-day trials of living, life would be better if those around them imitated Jesus. The Golden Rule is fine, but doing more is better. Consider the example of Christ, examine your own heart and life, and make the changes necessary to demonstrate that you, like Christ, clearly care.

For additional information and resources in dealing with this life topic, visit the Christian Life Resources website at www.ChristianLifeResources.com or call us at 1-800-729-9535.