

Kenmore Baptist Church Message Outline June 21, 2015 (John Robertson)

Growing for Life – Revisited

The Golden Rule – Matthew 7:12

God has laid on our hearts here at KBC that this year is to be a year of the Spring season, a year in which we believe God has called us to be about *Growing for Life*. Within the 360 vision we talked about one of the main areas of real focus for us is on outreach towards our Local Communities. It's the "South" arrow of our 360 vision.

To touch our local communities - to be a part of transforming local communities with Christ. Creation Mandate: The Great Commandment - Love God and Love Your Neighbour. (Matthew 22:36-40)

Love for God and love for people are inextricably tied together. In fact, you cannot love God and not love people.

The Golden Rule

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. Matthew 7:12 (NIV)

That statement of Jesus is commonly called the Golden Rule, and the big idea for us capture in it is this: Do people know of God's love through me? Will they experience His kingdom through my actions? Will I take the initiative to do something good for another person?

If this is to happen, we're going to have to embrace the Golden Rule in three ways.

1. View the Rule Positively

...Do to others what you would have them do to you.

To love your Neighbour is to intend their good. To love somebody is to intend their good as God wills good, as God defines good.

Jesus takes a statement that was familiar to people '*don't do unto others what you don't want them to do to you*' and turns it around – so that it is no longer stated negatively, but positively. This requires conscious and concentrated effort.

2. Understand the Rule Comprehensively

Jesus said this rule...sums up the Law and the Prophets.

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. Matthew 5:17 (NIV)

LAW Vs SPIRIT OF THE LAW

DON'T Vs DO

The Golden Rule, when understood comprehensively, allows us to live out the kingdom dynamics towards others. This goes well beyond tolerating people – it compels us to move with love towards them and actions that demonstrate it.

How Far Can Love Go?

3. Live the Rule Daily

...In everything.

The principle must guide our day to day treatment of others. Living by the Golden Rule prevents the need for laying down an endless list of little rules and regulations to govern conduct.

- Think how Jesus has treated you
- Think how you would like to be treated in that particular circumstance
- Think how Jesus would treat the other person
- Then do it

Jesus knows we can change the world. Do to others what you would have them to do you. Don't wait for them to do something for you. Take the initiative.

Application – Golden Rule Assignment

Let's make it our assignment this week to take the initiative to do something for someone that we'd want done to us. Ask Holy Spirit to reveal to you what to do and how to do it.

Name: _____

Action:

Discussion Questions:

Q1. Take a moment to think about your life and all those who you come in contact with on a regular basis. Do people know of God's love through you? Do they experience His kingdom through your actions?

Q2. Discuss the difference between; "Don't do unto other what you wouldn't want done to you." And "Do unto others what you want done unto you."

Q3. Read through Matthew 5:21-48. Make note of how Jesus is asking the law to be fulfilled.

Q4. Just how far can love go in your context? Who do you find it difficult to love? What could you do to show love towards them?

Q5. Complete your *Golden Rule Assignment* this week and come prepared to discuss it next week.