

The Golden Rule

A. 2 sides to the teachings of Christ

1. The teachings of Jesus are so deep and _____ that, even if we studied them for a lifetime, we could never fully understand everything Jesus was trying to tell/teach us
2. But, many of Jesus' teachings are so _____ that a child can understand

B. 3 foundational teachings of Christ

1. The Great _____
 - a. Mt 28:19-20
 - b. Go out from here, and make disciples of all the nations
2. The Great _____
 - a. Mark 12:30-31
 - b. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. And love your neighbor as yourself.
 - nothing trumps love
3. The _____
 - a. Mt 7:12
 - b. "Do unto others, what you would have them do unto you."

C. The Golden Rule (ethic of reciprocity)

1. In the gray areas, in the complicated areas of life, especially when it is hard to be loving, what *is* the right thing to do?
 - a. _____ them the way you would want to be treated
 - b. _____ them, the way you would want to be respected
 - starting point for almost all "good decisions" is this ethic, and it applies to almost every situation in life

D. What kind of world would we be living in if *every* person, treated every other person the way they wanted to be treated?

1. 90% of our suffering is a direct result of people *disobeying* the Golden Rule

E. Since most people do *not* actually follow the Golden Rule today in everyday life, why should I?

1. Mt 5:13-16, "*You* are the _____ of this sometimes cold and dark world. *You* are the _____ in this sometimes stale and tasteless earth."
2. When it's all said and done, there is only *one* story you have to worry about; that is *your* story
3. To get *our* story right, there really is one rule that stands above all others; it is a Golden Rule, compared to the rest, giving us a foundational starting point to make "good and right" decisions with our lives

A1. profound 2. simple B1. Commission 2. commandment 3. Golden Rule Ca. treat, respect E1. light, salt