

THE GOLDEN RULE IN PRACTICE

January 22, 2023 Matthew 7:1-12 by Bob Branch
The Presence of the Future, part 10

The problem of being judgmental.

The Golden Rule. “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” **Matthew 7:12**

BIG IDEA: When we apply the Golden Rule to every area of life, our perspective changes, God’s Spirit empowers, relationships are enriched, & joy increases.

Don’t judge, or it’ll boomerang...(1-2)

1. Being Judge, Jury & Executioner—putting yourself in the _____. (v. 1-2)

“Do not judge and you won’t be judged. Don’t condemn, and you won’t be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven...” **Luke 6:37**
(Jn. 7:24; Rom. 14:10-13; 1 Cor. 2:15; 5:12; Gal. 6:1)

2. We do need to _____ get back on track—just not in a judgmental way! (v. 5)

“Better open rebuke than hidden love.” **Prov. 27:5**

“go to your brother, just the two of you.” **Mat. 18:15**

***Who can speak into your life for your growth?
Have you invited correction?***

3. _____ in who and how you share truth and gentle correction. (6)

Everyone who asks, receives... Like the Father (7-11)

4. _____ those you are sharing correction with. (7-8)

5. _____ like your Heavenly Father is good and generous. (9-11)

DIGESTIVE ASSISTANCE

How judgmental are you? 1-10, throw out 5. Humble yourself before God with it. Ask for help!

How receptive are you to correction from those who love you? How would you want to be corrected?

Ask 1-3 people to speak truth into your life, when they sense Jesus is speaking.

How do you want to be treated? Write that down. Memorize it. Look outward through it.

PRAYER: Father, because of Jesus, we are now people of grace, mercy and understanding. We believe your truth sets us free. We are people who want to grow up to full maturity in Christ. To get there, we need deep connection to each other, and gentle correction from those we love and trust. Yet, we are often defensive and resistant to correction. We have been hurt by it in the past. Have mercy on us, Lord. Help us to cultivate loving, trusting relationships with each other where we can be open to hear you calling us into our Christ-bought selves. We entrust ourselves to you, Father, in Jesus’ name.