

Welcome to New Life !

We are very pleased you are here. We sincerely hope you will be especially aware of God's presence as we worship. If this is your first time to worship with us, here is what you can expect:

Worship in Singing & Giving

- We leave how to worship up to you as an individual. During **singing** worship, you are free to connect with God in whatever biblical way that expresses your heart's adoration. Some may remain seated, others stand, kneel, clap or lift their hands.
- If you would like to receive personal **prayer** during worship with singing, you may go to one of the Prayer Teams located at the back of the sanctuary.
- Invitation is given for **tithes and offerings**. If you are our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute when God's tithes and offerings are received.

Worship in Sharing God's Love

Expressions of greeting and God's love are extended to all, especially to our guests.

Worship in Meditating on God's Word

Teaching from the Bible for about 35 minutes.

We encourage you to use our **staffed Nursery** [which has a private nursing room] and **Children's Churches** during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating the various rooms.

{turn page over}

Pastor Bob Wine

June 8, 2008

PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT

"How do you want to be treated?"

Matthew 7:12

FOCUS FOR THE DAY ... God's empowerment to live "The Golden Rule"

Man's greatest problem today is relationships.

Jesus taught:

Mark 12:31 "Love your neighbor as yourself"

Jesus restated it as "The Golden Rule" ...

Matthew 7:12 "Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets." NLT

"What is that verse really teaching?"

1. THE GOLDEN RULE MEANS TO SHOW PARTIALITY

- Most have given it a negative spin.
"What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others." - Confucius
- But, this is NOT what Jesus taught! In fact, He was the only one who taught this rule with a positive spin!!
Matthew 7:1 "Do not judge others, and you will not be judged." NLT
- Give them positive preferential treatment!
Matthew 7:12 "Do to others whatever **you would like them to do to you.**" NLT
- Jesus is telling us to give because it is right! ... the way He would do it.
- When you know in your heart you have acted like Christ to a person, there is a deeper satisfaction within you than anything good that any person could give you in return.

2. HOW DO I LIVE THE GOLDEN RULE?

- Understand that it is divine behavior, not human.
- The first commandment enables the second.

Mark 12:30 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."

- The ability to have such a relationship with others, comes ONLY out of a close and passionate relationship with a loving God.

“Most of us genuinely want that close relationship with God.”

A few tools that can help:

- Invest quiet time in learning to hear Him speak to you as you read and meditate on what the Bible says.
- Get into a relationship with a person of the same gender, who wants to hear, and keep hearing, God’s voice as you do. Then you can share your discoveries as well as spur each other on as you journey together.
- Practicing several spiritual exercises referred to in the Bible ...
 - Being diligent to regularly attend worship services
 - Sacrificially giving of what is a treasure to you
 - Practicing simplicity or frugality
 - Practicing times of solitude with God
 - Extended prayer times
 - Journaling

The Results ... You will find God’s life will begin coming out in your attitude and relationships.

It only stands to reason that as you seek God’s empowerment to live “The Golden Rule” as Jesus taught it that your relationships will improve.

IT IS TIME TO TAKE IT A STEP FURTHER ...

If you find yourself spiritually stagnated or stalled, seeking God with renewed passion will give you the lift you long for.

Are you prepared to seriously begin seeking to live out what Jesus really meant in the Golden Rule? The result is that you will become more and more like Christ -- becoming a mature Christian.

So, what do you plan now to do with what Jesus has told us to do? Will you recommit yourself to giving yourself more diligently to connecting with Him?

“DIGGING DEEPER”

For personal or small group study

Week of June 8, 2008

QUICK REVIEW: Which point or scripture passage most challenged, confused, or caught your attention in this week’s message? Why?

TODAY’S FOCUS

1. Read the Golden Rule found in Matthew 7:12. How is this truth the foundation of active goodness and mercy?

What does it teach us about love for God and obedience?

Why is Jesus’ positive spin on this truth better than the negative spin given by many other religions?
2. How has practicing the Golden Rule positively impacted you in your relationship with others? Give an example.

GETTING THE POINT

1. Why does it seem so difficult to truly live out the truth of the Golden Rule? What part does our passion and love for God play in putting this truth into practice?

In the sermon notes, under “How do I live the Golden Rule?”, it referred to this statement, “*Understand that it is divine behavior, not human behavior.*” How do you relate that to living out the Golden Rule? [Mark 12:30-31; John 6:44-45, 65; Zechariah 4:6; Nehemiah 4:20]
2. How does seriously seeking to live out what Jesus really meant in the Golden Rule help a person who is spiritually drifting or even stalled out? [Jeremiah 29:13-14; 1 Peter 2:18-20; James 1:12; 2 Timothy 2:3-7]

What would you say to a friend who you knew was drifting or spiritually stalled to help them get moving forward spiritually again?

A LOOK INSIDE

What especially did you hear God saying to you personally in this study on the Golden Rule?

How are you going to practically apply these truths presented in this sermon to your life in the upcoming weeks?