

The Golden Rule - Rev John Ohen

In our world today, the majority of us are not prepared to treat others as we would want to be treated. We are not prepared to do to others as we would want them to do to us. We want what is best for us but not for others, why?

In many ways we are selfish and self-absorbed. We do not think about the ripple effect of our behaviour. Jesus wants us to be aware of other people around us and be sensitive to their situations. On Monday 22 June, Prince Charles, in opening the Windrush Celebration, reminds us that 'one of the greatest strengths of Britain is in our Diversity'. It is about our interconnectedness and reliance on other people to make progress and peace possible.

Jesus' instruction to do to others as we would have them do to us, is a call for communal unity and peace among all people. It is supposed to be practiced by all the Abrahamic faiths - Islam, Judaism and Christianity. It is also meant to be at the heart of justice and social order and applies in all situations. We do not feel too good when we are cheated or wronged because we have feelings.

This golden rule, to do to others as you would want them to do to you, is certainly not an easy command. Jesus goes on to say that it is a narrow path and only few find it. It means that we can only live in this way if we are in regular communion with God and know his love. Therefore, to pass through this narrow gate, we must be humble and willing to be Christ-like in words and actions. Let us pray for the grace to follow the path of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Bible Reading: So, in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and Prophets. Enter through the narrow gates. For wide is the gate, and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

- Matthew 7: 12- 14.

Prayer: Lord Jesus thank you for calling us to treat others as ourselves. Give us the wisdom to remember this rule and strengthen us to follow it for your name's sake. Amen.

Hymn: Create in me a clean heart - you can listen to it here
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-YsSpkDNbk>

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit in me.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit in me.
Wash me, cleanse me, purify me;
Make my heart as white as snow.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit in me.

Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we may be faithful to your gospel in
our witness, attentive to your voice in our prayers and sensitive to your presence
in our neighbour; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

- *Veronese Libelli, 6th century*