

Conversation Starters

- What are some ways you can see division in our culture today?
- What do you think causes this?

Discuss

One of the most popular statements Jesus ever made came from the Sermon on the Mount, and is today known as "The Golden Rule." This "Rule" was meant to guide us for how we interact with others, and should be an active rather than passive obedience.

"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." (Matthew 7:12 NLT)

- How can we miss the mark on this by approaching it passively instead of actively?

The Bible gives us many instructions and examples of how to make this active, often known as practicing the "One Another's" with the people around us. Here is a look at some examples:

Hebrews 3:13 (NIV) – "...encourage one another..."

This includes raw care and help in various life circumstances, praying for others, and cheering each other on as you strive to fulfill your roles and responsibilities in life. Joseph or Barnabas modeled this well as can be seen in the book of Acts (4:32-37; 9:26-28; 11:22-26 NLT)

- How have you been encouraged in life?
- Do you look for opportunities to encourage the people around you?
- How can you grow in the practice of encouragement?

Galatians 5:13 (NIV) – "...serve one another..."

Serving each other requires you to actively think about how you can add value to someone else, instead of constantly thinking of yourself. Jesus was a great model for this (John 13:4-5,12-15 NLT)

- Has someone ever served you? How did it impact you?
- Have you served someone else recently?
- What are some examples of what this could look like?

Romans 12:10 (NIV) – "...honor one another..."

This requires us to place another person above ourselves. It's one thing to bring someone alongside of you, which is a good thing, but honor requires taking it a step further and putting someone in front of you. The TV personality Fred Rogers took an opportunity to practice this during his Grammy Award speech when he chose to use that platform to honor the people who encouraged him in his career.

- Is there someone in your life that deserves to be honored by you for how they impacted you?
- What are some ways you can honor others?

Next Steps

The Golden Rule requires us to take active steps to practice it. When we do practice them, they create a community that is healthy, strong, and very attractive – it’s the community God intended for us. Try practicing a “One Another” this week.

- Is there someone in your life that you could encourage? Encourage them.
- Is there someone in your life that needs serving? Serve them.
- Is there someone in your life that you can honor? Honor them.

Further Reflection

See Matthew 7:12 and references above. For more examples of “One Another’s”:

- *Romans 12:2,16; 14:13,19; 15:7*
- *Ephesians 4:2,32*
- *Hebrews 10:24*
- *Colossians 3:13*
- *1 Peter 4:9*
- *John 13:34*

Pray

God, thank you for The Golden Rule and community that it can create. With so much division in our world today, your wisdom and instructions give us all that we need to create a community that is so rich with love and grace and one that you desire and reflects your love for us. Help us to actively practice this with the people around us.