

The Golden Rule

In January we will continue with our study of the Old Testament Prophets. We are using the following New Testament passage as our foundation for this study:

³⁷ Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22)

During this Sunday morning sermon series, we have observed how each Old Testament Prophet communicates that God is not only concerned with our responsibility to love Him but He also shows concern for how we treat others.

This is actually a theme that runs throughout Scripture. Even the Golden Rule, found in Matthew 7, is actually a summary of the Law and Prophets.

¹² So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

If the Law and Prophets ‘hang’ on the two commandments found in Matthew 22 and the Law and Prophets are ‘summed up’ by the Golden Rule found in Matthew 7, it is an easy conclusion for me to make that God is very interested in two things: First, How we love Him and demonstrate that love through our obedience to Him. Second, How we love others and demonstrate that love in all of our relationships.

With this in mind, I have decided to use our Wednesday evenings to put together a series of studies entitled:

Maintaining Peace in Personal Relationships.

During this series, we will be using some of the material produced by Ken Sande and the Peacemaker Ministries. I am sure that our time together will be of great benefit for all who attend. Feel free to invite your family and friends to join us for this special series of Biblical lessons. Our first session will be Wednesday, January 11th. Please remember to RSVP your attendance for the meal on the Sunday Bulletin Bookmark or call the church office (214) 321-6435. The meal is only \$3.00/adult (children eat free).

On Sunday mornings we will take a look at relationship successes and failures in the Bible. This will begin after we conclude our series of the Old Testament Prophets. We will see some practical application to the principles that we will be studying on Wednesday evenings.

Our ability to both love God and love one another is one of the observable differences that separates Christians from those who follow other world religions.

Jesus said,

³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:34-35)

I am thankful to be the pastor of a church that both demonstrates their love for God and their love to one another. It is my prayer that God can use us to help those we know and love to grow in both relationships.

May God’s Grace be evident to all in this New Year!

Pastor Paul