

Study 8

The Golden Rule
JESUS
commanded

(Matthew 7:1-12)

Christianity is not only about following Jesus it's also about becoming *like* Jesus. This involves us changing and growing. As we each become like Christ we will reflect Him in different ways. Becoming like Christ doesn't mean we have to wander around in a seamless robe and talk with fishermen for the rest of our lives! It means that we pursue those things that Christ pursued and imitate His heart toward others.

1. According to John 5:30 what was Christ pursuing?

2. What are some of the things that hinder us from pursuing the same thing?

Christ now completes His Sermon on the Mount with some of the most practical instructions the follower of Christ will ever receive. Christian maturity cannot be measured without reference to *these* commands of Christ.

3. Compare Matthew 7:1 and Luke 6:37. In what way does Luke 6:37 bring balance to Matthew 7:1?
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4. Based on Matthew 7:1-2 select the correct answer from the choices below-
- (a) No one should ever judge anyone, including those in courts of Law
 - (b) Only make a judgment when you have all the facts and would be prepared to be judged in the same way
 - (c) Even when people are committing sin which is injuring people and being covered up, they shouldn't be condemned



5. Based on Matthew 7:3-4, what kind of attitude would be necessary for us to have to be made aware of any logs in our eyes?

6. How might we best remove the “logs” from our own eyes?

The Jews had a word to describe someone committing what they considered to be the worst kind of sin: “a dog” (note Matthew 15:26; Philippians 3:2; Revelation 22:15). Jesus used this word in the same way. It seems to have described someone who had little regard for God’s Law and would much rather be ruled by their various appetites. The heart condition of these people is so hard toward the things of God that anything to with God or His Word is mocked.

7. What are we told *not* to do in Matthew 7:6?

Jesus taught something never understood before. While Israel had related to God as Lord, Creator, Law-Giver, Judge, they had not known Him as *Father*. Jesus, the eternal Son of God, wanted people to know that His Father could be their Father. He wanted people to come closer to God as their Heavenly Father. But Christ went further than merely describing God as Father, He described what kind of Father He was.

8. If we really believed Matthew 7:7-8, how different do you think we would live?

9. Based on Matthew 7:9-11 what do think Jesus wanted us to know about God? How does this knowledge change how you regard God?

THE GOLDEN RULE

Perhaps if it was possible to live a “minimal” Christian life then Matthew 7:12 would be a contender for that minimum standard.

10. In what way is Matthew 7:12 a positive command rather than a negative command?

11. Describe three ways you could implement this verse tomorrow-

(i) _____

(ii) _____

(iii) _____

Amen.