

The Golden Rule: What's Love Got To Do With It? **by Rico Brown**

Matthew 7:12 reads as follows: "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." Please note that this text is at the end of our Lord's thoughts on mutual treatment. Many single this verse out, but I put forward it is the conclusion of His previous statements. Rather than do unto others as we want done for us, we should understand that we are to do unto others as HE has done for us. He has shown us what love is all about. One may ask "What's Love Got To Do With It?" Everything! Consider Matthew 22:36-40. Notice, we are not dealing with the same love Tina Turner was expressing toward Ike Turner, but I wonder how many Christians are treating love the same way. Too many Christians don't understand the concept of love as a Christian. So they question that remains is "Are we being exemplified examples of Christ?" We already have an example set for us to follow in that of Christ, but who are you following? (John 8:12-14; 1 Thessalonians 5:5-6). Even Paul gave us an example worth following (Galatians 5:13). We are free to follow whom we will, but what usage do we make of that sacrificial freedom? (1 Peter 2:15-16)

Many times, we do not realize that our example requires us to get down off of our 'high horses' (1 Corinthians 9:20-23). We must remember that He assures us that wherever you are, I'll meet you there (Romans 11:14). We are living examples Jesus Christ. Consider 1 Peter 2:21-24: "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." Therefore, we ought to know something about love! We got to learn how to love the Lord (Matthew 22:37-38) and know that this is for us all. We must love with the right heart, not the one that pumps blood, but the one that can lead you to the blood (1 Peter 3:15). In the process, as directed, we all must learn how to love our neighbor. When properly studied and applied, we will know that learning love starts with death (1 John 3:14-24), knowing love ends with God (1 John 4:7-21), and showing love shuns the world (Jude 17-21).