

Spiritual How-to's
The Golden Rule
Debbie Chaney

INTRO. I want to begin with a story from the Chicago Tribune.

How could Joe not see his double standard? Geesh!

Treat other people's kids, the way you want them to treat your kid, Joe. C'mon!

You don't want your kid watching porn, but it's okay for other kids?

Are you even thinking?

*** Our simple and powerful message today is, do we even think about living by the golden rule?**

I. In 1 verse, in Matthew 7, we see Jesus laying down for us a principle that summarizes the entire Law of the OT. Read it in Matthew 7:12

HOW YOU WANT TO BE TREATED DETERMINES HOW YOU TREAT OTHERS.

But do we even think about it, or do we simply act, speak and behave out of old bad, habits?

A. God's kingdom doesn't run on the same principles and values as this earthly kingdom.

1. We talked about this when we taught on Loving your enemies Mat. 5:43-48

2. We know the kingdom of God was summed up with – Love God, Love others.

Matt. 22:37-40

B. So as believers, we should be behaving to God's standards.

1. Our words about others should measure up

2. Our actions should measure up

3. Even our thoughts should measure up

C. If we are a work in process, clay on God's potter's wheel, then He is fashioning us to be a vessel of honor.

1. Without blemishes, bubbles or other bad things in our actions.

2. Out of conviction, when we see our flaws, we want to change and ask him to change us

a. So don't be surprised when more opportunities come to you that challenge your actions, words and thoughts.

b. He is purifying us and shaping us into a pleasing vessel.

D. We recognize what comes out of our mouth towards others, how we behave towards others, and think about it!

E. Otherwise, we are really no different than Joe from our opening story.

II. How do you want to be treated?

A. With patience, understanding, grace, and acceptance?

B. Then guess what I need to work on showing.... patience, understanding, grace and acceptance.

III. What do you want people to do for you?

A. Encourage you, help you, be understanding, be kind, listen, nothing?

B. Then, you guessed it... be encouraging, understanding, kind and listen. Or do nothing.
IV. This is so simple. Nothing more needs to be said, but so much more must be done.

A. Utilize this festive, happy season as a springboard for your new approach to how you treat others.

B. THINK! How do you want to be treated... then give that away! To someone, anyone.

C. Recognize where you're off and being like Joe our hypocrite

1. And change

2. It's really that simple

Underdebraspalm.com