



The Golden Rule

Christianity

Whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them.

Matthew 7.12

Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.

Matthew 22.36-40

Judaism

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Leviticus 19.18

A certain heathen came to Shammai and said to him, "Make me a proselyte, on condition that you teach me the whole Torah while I stand on one foot." Thereupon he repulsed him with the rod which was in his hand. when he went to Hillel, he said to him, "What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor: that is the whole Torah; all the rest of it is commentary; go and learn."

Talmud, Shabbat 31a

Islám

Not one of you is a believer until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself.

Forty Hadith of an-Nawawi 13

Do unto all men as you would wish to have done unto you; and reject for others what you would reject for yourselves.

Hadith

Islám

(Continued)

Anas and 'Abdu'lláh reported God's Messenger [Muhammad] as saying, "All [human] creatures are God's children, and those dearest to God are those who treat His children kindly."

Hadith of Baihaqi

Jainism

A man should wander about treating all creatures as he himself would [like to] be treated.

Sutrakritanga 1.11.33

Have benevolence toward all living beings, joy at the sight of the virtuous, compassion and sympathy for the afflicted, and tolerance towards the indolent and ill behaved.

Tattiyarhasutra 7.11

One who you think should be hit is none else but you. One who you think should be governed is none else but you. One who you think should be tortured is none else but you. One who you think should be enslaved is none else but you. One who you think should be killed is none else but you. A sage is ingenuous and leads his life after comprehending the parity of the killed and the killer. Therefore, neither does he cause violence to others nor does he make others do so.

Acarangasutra 5.101-02

Taoism

The good man "ought to pity the malignant tendencies of others; to rejoice over their excellence; to help them in their straits; to regard their gains as if they were his own, and their losses in the same way."

The Thai-Shang, 3

Taoism

(Continued)

He who can find no room for others lacks fellow feeling, and to him who lacks fellow feeling, all men are strangers.

Chuang Tzu 23

Confucianism

Tsekung asked, "Is there one word that can serve as a principle of conduct for life?" Confucius replied, "It is the word shu -- reciprocity: Do not do to others what you do not want them to do to you."

Analects 15.23

Try your best to treat others as you would wish to be treated yourself; and you will find that this is the shortest way to benevolence.

Mencius VII.A.4

Zoroastrianism

That nature only is good when it shall not do unto another whatever is not good for its own self.

Dadistan-i Dinik, 94:5

Hinduism

One should not behave towards others in a way which is disagreeable to oneself. This is the essence of morality. All other activities are due to selfish desire.

Mahabharata, Anusasana Parva 113.8

Buddhism

Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.

Udana-Varqu, 5:18

Comparing oneself to others in such terms as "Just as I am so are they, just as they are so am I," he should neither kill nor cause others to kill.

Sutta Nipata 705

Buddhism

(Continued)

The Ariyan disciple thus reflects, Here am I, fond of my life, not wanting to die, fond of pleasure and averse from pain. Suppose someone should rob me of my life. . . it would not be a thing pleasing and delightful to me. If I, in my turn, should rob of his life one fond of his life, not wanting to die, one fond of pleasure and averse to pain, it would not be a thing pleasing or delightful to him. For a state that is not pleasant or delightful to me must also be to him also; and a state that is not pleasing or delightful to me, how could I inflict that upon another?

As a result of such reflection he himself abstains from the taking the life of creatures and he encourages others so to abstain, and speaks in praise of so abstaining.

Samyuna Nikaya v.353

Bahá'í Faith

Lay not on any soul a load which ye would not wish to be laid upon you, and desire not for any one the things ye would not desire for yourselves. This is My best counsel unto you, did ye but observe it.

*Gleanings from the Writings of
Bahá'u'lláh 128*

The supreme need of humanity is co-operation and reciprocity. The stronger the ties of fellowship and solidarity amongst men, the greater will be the power of constructiveness and accomplishment in all the planes of human activity. Without co-operation and reciprocal attitude the individual member of human society remains self-centered, uninspired by altruistic purposes, limited and solitary in development like the animal and plant organisms of the lower kingdoms. The lower creatures are not in need of co-operation and reciprocity.

Bahá'í Faith

(Continued)

A tree can live solitary and alone, but this is impossible for man without retrogression. Therefore, every co-operative

attitude and activity of human life is praiseworthy and foreintended by the will of God

'Abdu'l-Bahá (from notes), Promulgation of Universal Peace 337-38



PRAYER FOR AMERICA

O Thou kind Lord! This gathering is turning to Thee. These hearts are radiant with Thy love. These minds and spirits are exhilarated by the message of Thy glad-tidings. O God! Let this American democracy become glorious in spiritual degrees even as it has aspired to material degrees, and render this just government victorious. Confirm this revered nation to upraise the standard of the oneness of humanity, to promulgate the Most Great Peace, to become thereby most glorious and praiseworthy among all the nations of the world. O God! This American nation is worthy of Thy favors and is deserving of Thy mercy. Make it precious and near to Thee through Thy bounty and bestowal.

Abdu'l-Bahá

