

Kingdom Living

Matthew 7:7-12

Intro

“The Golden Rule” the supreme ethic for all human relationships.

The biblical idea of what it means to *love*.

Three major distinctives:

- 1) It is *positive*
- 2) It is *active*
- 3) It is *comprehensive*

This *principle of love*, covers all the many thousands of various questions that spontaneously arise about how we should properly conduct ourselves in the myriad relationships we have throughout our lives.

God has placed us in a plurality, a *community* of believers designed for us to give an open expression to God’s love.

We are a family – “members of the household of God” (Ephesians 2:19).

“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are” (1 John 3:1).

“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:9-10).

“go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God'" (John 20:17-18).

But it’s important to realize that this critical Christian ethic of expressing supreme love within the family of God is impossible unless the Christian is in right relationship with the Father.

"So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 7:12).

We are to love God and one another

This is *kingdom living*.

“If you then, who are evil...” (v11).

“lovers of self...not loving good” (2 Timothy 3:2).

“hating one another” (Titus 3:3).

“God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” (Romans 5:5).

The love that is literally poured into the hearts of all true believers, is a compelling love that does not serve the self, but the needs of others (cf. Romans 6:4; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15).

“If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them” (John 13:17).

“For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. They all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 2:20-22).

“No one does good, not even one” (Romans 3:12).

Love then, is the fulfillment of the whole law (Romans 13:8-10).

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!” (Matthew 7:7-11).

Three Primary Imperatives to Kingdom Living

Ask = Humble Belief (confidence, trust, assurance)

Are you aware of your real need, and do you really believe that God is your Father?

Seek = Earnest Desire (longing, craving, yearning)

All action is based upon and fueled by *desire*.

“If anyone’s will is to do God’s will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory” (John 7:17).

Is the glory of God in all of life the deepest desire of your heart?

Knock = Persistent Pursuit (determination, resolve, tenacity)

Asking plus persevering.

Persevering depends on *desire* and *faith*.

The parable of the persistent widow: Luke 18:1-8.

“And he said to them, ‘Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, “Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him”; and he will answer from within, “Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything”? I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his [persistence] he will rise and give him whatever he needs” (Luke 11:5-8).

Jesus said, "we ought always to pray and not lose heart.... And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" (Luke 11:1, 7-8).

The question on this point is: *are you willing to wait with unfading hope that your Father will act according to His unfailing will?*

"Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer" (Romans 12:12).

"Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving" (Colossians 4:2).

"Giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:20).

Desperate Appeal, Deep Desire, Diligent Pursuit

"If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!" (v11).