

THE GOLDEN RULE

THE ANCIENT WORLD

'Do for one who may do for you, that you may cause him thus to do.'
The Tale of the Eloquent Peasant, Egypt, 1970 - 1640 BCE

'Do not do to others that which would anger you if others did it to you.'
Socrates, Greece, 5th century BCE

'Justice consists in doing no injury to man.'
Cicero, 1st Century BCE

'The law imprinted on the hearts of all men is to love the members of society as themselves.'
Roman Pagan Religion

'Treat your inferiors as you would be treated by your superiors.'
Seneca, Epistle 47:11, Rome, 1st century CE

EASTERN RELIGIONS AND WORLDVIEWS

'He should treat all beings as he himself should be treated. The essence of right conduct is not to injure anyone.'
Jainism, from The Suta-Kritanga, about 550 BCE

'Do not do to others what you would not like for yourself. Then there will be no resentment against you, either in the family or in the state.'
Confucianism, The Analects of Confucius, 12:2, about 500 BCE

'I will act towards others exactly as I would act towards myself.'
Buddhism, from The Siglo-Vada Sutta, about 500 BCE

'Regard your neighbour's gain as your gain, and your neighbour's loss as your own loss.'
Taoism, Tai Shang KanYin P'ien, 500 - 400 BCE

'This is the sum of duty: Do nothing to others which, if done to you, could cause you pain.'
Hinduism, from The Mahabharata, about 150 BCE

'As you think of yourself, so think of others.'
Sikhism, from Guru Granth Sahib, 1604 CE

MIDDLE EASTERN RELIGIONS

'What is harmful to yourself do not do to your fellow men. That is the whole of the law...'
Judaism, from Hillel: The Talmud, about 100 CE

'None of you truly believes, until he wishes for his brothers what he wishes for himself.'
Islam, saying of The Prophet Muhammad, 7th Century CE

'He should not wish for others what he does not wish for himself.'
Bahá'í Faith, from the writings of Baha'u'llah, about 1870 CE

'That nature alone is good which refrains from doing unto another whatsoever is not good for itself.'
Zoroastrianism, Dadistan-i-dinik 94:5

OTHER RELIGIONS AND WORLDVIEWS

'Someone going to take a pointed stick to pinch a baby bird should first try it on himself to feel how it hurts.'
Yoruba Proverb (Nigeria)

'Love your neighbour as yourself.'
Judaism, Leviticus 19, about 400 BCE; and Christianity, Jesus in Matthew 22 and Mark 12, 1st Century CE

'All things are our relatives; what we do to everything, we do to ourselves. All is really One.'
Native American, Black Elk

One should be 'contented with so much liberty against other men, as he would allow against himself.'
Thomas Hobbes, English philosopher, 1588-1679 CE

'To do as one would be done by, and to love one's neighbour as one's self, constitute the ideal perfection of utilitarian morality.'
John Stuart Mill, Utilitarianism, 1861

'We affirm and promote respect for the interdependence of all existence of which we are a part.'
Unitarian principles

'If it harms no one, do what you will.'
The Wiccan Rede, 1975 CE

'Do as you would be done by.'
Global saying

'Recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world'

*Universal Declaration of Human Rights
Proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations, 1948*

'Treat others as you would have them treat you.'
The most popular commandment in Channel 4's The New Ten Commandments, 2005 CE

'Treat other people as you'd want to be treated in their situation; don't do things you wouldn't want to have done to you.'
Humanism, British Humanist Association, 1999 CE



Humanists believe that the "Golden Rule" is so widespread because it is based on our common humanity - we all want to be treated well and we all need to live harmoniously with others. It is a widely shared and useful principle that can be worked out by anyone, anywhere, in any culture or era, using experience and empathy. It does not need to be given to us by a deity.

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