

From the Pastor

The next statement that Jesus makes after the instruction concerning prayer is found in Matthew 7:12. “Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

This verse is often called the “Golden Rule.” The basic point is easy to say, but, it is much harder to live by. The principle is: God wants us to treat others the way we want to be treated. We all fall down when it comes to living by this principle 24/7.

This principle states the spirit of the law in action. The spirit of the law describes God’s mind and approach of real love. We want to be treated with love, respect, thoughtfulness, mercy, kindness—in other words—with real concern. This describes the attitude and approach we should have in dealing with others.

God is truly concerned about the happiness and wellbeing of others. That is His nature. God is love. God’s mind is not on Himself. He is not motivated by what He can get. It is indeed true that He wants to have a family. But, His approach and plan for having a family is His desire to give God-life to us!

Luke’s account gives more detail. Luke 6:27-28 records, “But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.”

This is not the natural human response to those who have harmed us or who seek to harm us. But, it is the mind of God. Remember John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...” God gave His Son in sacrifice when we were enemies. Romans 5:8,10 records, “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us...For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”

There is a lot in those two verses, but, they show God’s love in action. He loved us not knowing whether we would ever respond to His offer by free choice and choose to love Him in return.

We will cover Luke 6:29-31 next time for there are some matters that need further explanation using Jesus’ example.

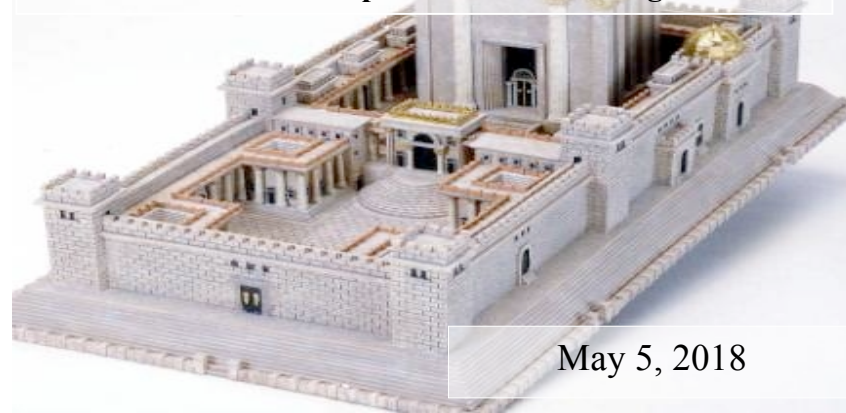
Luke then records, “And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. But, if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Highest. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

To live by the Golden Rule requires that we learn to be as God is.

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
Sunset Today in:	8:05pm	8:05pm	8:04pm
Sunset Friday 5-11	8:09pm	8:08pm	8:07pm

Church of God South Texas

Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen



May 5, 2018

Victoria

Sermon: Steve Moody

Corpus Christi

Sermonette: In Accord DVD

Sermon: HQ DVD

Harlingen

Sermonette: In Accord DVD

Sermon/Bible Study: Arnold Mendez

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”

Joshua 1:8

Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 5/5	Regular times and locations for Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Harlingen, and Victoria.
Sabbath 5/12	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Moody will be in Corpus Christi. Mr. Chapman will be in Victoria. The HQ DVD will be played in San Antonio. Mr. Watts will deliver the sermon in Harlingen.

From Clyde Kilough:

We are pleased to introduce a new website dedicated to our COGWA teens! Your thoughts, trials and experiences are unique to you. You'll find blogs, sermon messages and more—all with topics just for you! Don't see what you're looking for? You can even suggest a topic! We hope you'll find this website useful in dealing with everyday life as a teen following God's way. Visit the new site today at teens.cogwa.org!

FI to Sponsor Pentecost Trip to Israel:

Foundation Institute is currently planning a travel education tour to Israel during the 2019 Pentecost season. The trip will take place from June 3-12, 2019. This is an exciting opportunity to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost in the Holy Land—just a few short miles from where the Church began on Pentecost of A.D. 31. The trip will follow a similar itinerary to that of our 2016 trip, starting in the northern part of Israel and ending in the city of Jerusalem. The trip will include visits to:

Caesarea, Megiddo and Mount Carmel.
The Sea of Galilee and northern Israel—Mount of the Beatitudes, Nazareth and Tel Dan. The Jordan Valley—Beth Shean, Qumran, Masada.
Jerusalem—Temple Mount, City of David, Hezekiah's Tunnel, Western Wall, Golgotha and the Garden Tomb, Yad Vashem, etc.

We will tour on an air-conditioned coach with a professional Israeli guide and historian. There will also be on-site lectures from FI instructors and ministers, as well as services in Jerusalem on the Sabbath and Pentecost.

The cost for the trip (including airfare from New York, a shared hotel room, two meals a day and admission to all sites) is estimated to be \$3,300 per person for a shared room and around \$4,000 for a single-occupancy room. Since we are announcing it so early, we cannot yet lock in airfares for 2019, so the total cost may be slightly higher or lower.

Space on this trip is limited, so while members who went on the 2016 trip are welcome to apply, we will be giving priority to those who are participating for the first time.

More information can be found at foundationinstitute.org/continuing-education/travel. We hope you will consider this exciting opportunity!

David Johnson and Erik Jones

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

San Antonio Potluck: The next regularly will be May 5, 2018.

UPDATE Announcement: Festival Registration:

We would like to remind all COGWA members who have not registered for this year's Feast of Tabernacles to please do so by Monday, May 7. Registering during this time period is very helpful for festival planning. Even if you are unable to attend the Feast this year, we request that you register and indicate such.

IN ADDITION, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ALL MEMBERS KNOW

- If you already registered for the Feast, you should have received a confirmation email in return. If you did not receive a confirmation email, please re-register and make sure it is completed correctly.
- The Feast sites in Rapid City, South Dakota, and Cortona, Italy, are filled to capacity, and are closed to further transfers.
- If you are still deciding where to attend, we would like to make you are aware of the site on the west coast that still has plenty of room: San Diego, California – located in the beautiful coastal city in Southern California. This year we are again at the refurbished Crown Plaza Hotel.

Thank you very much for taking the time to register and letting us know what your plans are. Again, we encourage everyone to complete the registration process by Monday, May 7.

Early housing reservations also begin on Monday, May 7. Beginning on Monday, May 14, general housing reservations will be accepted. In addition, everyone who registers for the Feast will receive an email offering an opportunity to serve.

EARLY HOUSING Announcement:

Those who qualify to make early housing reservations can begin doing so on Monday, May 7. Members who qualify to make early reservations include:

1. Those who need handicapped rooms.
2. Those with very limited finances who need to be assured of procuring one of the lower-priced rooms.
3. Those who, due to dietary requirements, must have a kitchenette.
4. Those who have a large immediate family (six or more).

If you fit into one of these categories, please check with our Festival adviser who will be happy to assist you in finding satisfactory housing.