

## THE GOLDEN RULE

Even though man has given this title to Matthew 7:12, it is a fitting one for this most holy precept. This rule is really a commentary on the second great commandment given by our Master: to love our neighbor as our own self.

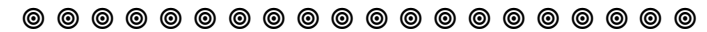
This is such a practical rule, applicable to every situation and involves every teaching of our Lord. We can find this element in all of the Sermon on the Mount and throughout the book of James. It makes good common sense. If you smile at someone, they will smile back. If you are angry with one, they may become angry in return (remember Proverbs 15.1).

How about the mote in the eye? If you judge others, they in turn are more apt to judge or question you and your behavior and motives. If you "look down" on someone, they too "look down" on you. Looking down on people never has nor will it ever cause anyone to look up to you. Do you want people to respect you? Do the same. Do you wish folks would cease their judging or gossip about you? Do the same. Do you want forgiveness from the Father? Forgive those who ask.

How do you love and accept others? On the basis of merit, social standing, income? Or, perhaps on their manners, speech and dress? Do you judge by outward appearance, or by righteousness (John 4:24)? Do you love outwardly, or from the heart (I Peter 1:22)? Do you love only in word, or by deed and truth (I John 3:18)?

Brethren, let us be reminded of these things. We must be aware of and concerned for our members, for we belong to one another. We must address those who come into our assemblies. We see one another continually. Not so our visitors and guests. Make it a habit to speak to our visitors and guests. Make them feel welcome. Make them **know** that you are glad they took time and had the interest in attending the worship assembly. Let them know you are concerned about their spiritual welfare. People are searching in these uncertain religious times for truth and

something real to which they can belong. Do not force them into "passing a test" before welcoming them. (Please understand, I do not speak with reference to showing them spiritual fellowship, for such cannot be done until they become Christians.) Show them what real New Testament Christianity is all about. Do not snub them nor ignore them, but show them we are **different** from anything they have ever experienced. Let us always practice what is preached, applying the Lord's "Golden Rule."



## HOW ARE WE KNOWN?

When the time comes that one leaves the walks of this earthly life, and is laid to rest, we conduct a memorial service and usually try to remember some good things about that person. As we consider our own departure from this life, we will consider (and wisely so) for what will we be remembered. This is something that whole congregations need to consider as well. For example, for what was the church in Corinth known? What do we remember about Laodicea? I am familiar with some congregations that in years past were very sound and strong in the faith. In more recent times however they have fallen from their first love and have tolerated "Jezebel" and some of her foul deeds and doctrines.

Brother Mike Vestal wrote an article from which many of these thoughts come, which asks "for what will this church be known?" At this time of the year, it is always proper to reflect on what we may have accomplished for the Lord, and what we may plan to accomplish in the next year, the Lord willing. First, we know that it is not a worthy goal to merely be pleasers of men (Galatians 1:10). We always want to make it our aim, as Paul said, to be well-pleasing to our Lord (2 Corinthians 5:9; John 8:29). Let us then examine and ask ourselves for what we shall be known.

Will we be known for **our love of God**? Jesus said "*If ye love me, ye will keep*

*my commandments” (John 14:15). You see, keeping the Lord’s word is a proof of our love. The apostle John would write and say “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous” (1 John 5:3). Will we be able to say with our Lord “knew ye not that I must be about my Father’s business?”(Luke 2:49).*

Will we be known for **the love of the souls of men?** Will we seek every mode and opportunity to *“Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to the whole creation” (Mark 16:15)?* This love of course includes the souls of our brethren. Will we be known for our **love and unity** with brethren? Will we heed Paul when he wrote *“Now I beseech you, brethren, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing and [that] there be no divisions among you; but [that] ye be perfected together in the same mind and in the same judgment” (1 Corinthians 1:10).*

Will we be known for our **generous giving, hospitality, and help** for those who are in need (2 Corinthians 9:6,7; Romans 12:13; Hebrews 13:1,2)? Will we obey the admonition that *“as we have opportunity, let us work that which is good toward all men, and especially toward them that are of the household of the faith” (Galatians 6:10).*

Will we be known as **a righteous people** for God’s own possession who *“let our manner of life be worthy of the Gospel of Christ” (Philippians 1:27)?* Let us live in this next year in such a way that we may *“be found in him, not having a righteousness of our own, even that which is of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith” (Philippians 3:9).* Let us *“walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7)* that we may be known as *“the righteousness of God in him” (II Corinthians 5:21).*

# RAGER ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

5775 Rager Rd, Canal Winchester, Ohio 43110  
Phone: 614-830-0110



## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

SUNDAY MORNING	BIBLE STUDY	9:30 A.M.
	WORSHIP	10:30 A.M.
SUNDAY EVENING	WORSHIP	6:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY	BIBLE STUDY	7:30 P.M.
Preachers:	Robin W. Haley	614-751-1082
	James Grayson	614-409-0941

December 14, 2008

Weekly Budget: \$1418.00

### WELCOME!

**Remember our sick brethren...**Lloyd Moore, sister Cassandra Gumbs, those who have been battling nasty colds & coughs!

**Fellowship meal and men’s meeting is today.** Please stay to eat; men, please be part of our business meeting after our noon meal.

**Cleaning schedule:** if it seems agreeable to all those who signed last year, and you will be willing to stay with last year’s schedule, we will leave it posted as is. If you would rather change months with someone, or be taken off, just scratch out your name, or talk with the one with whom you would like to switch.

**Year End Open House:** at the Haley’s—6834 Carrousel Dr S, Reynoldsburg. Sunday, December 28 from 2:30pm to 5pm. Come and go as you like. Refreshments will be available. Ask one of us for directions if you need. Hope to see you there and share in Holiday and New Year wishes.