
The Golden Rule Around the World

The same essential golden rule has been taught by all the major religions (and philosophies) of the world going back approximately 3500 years.

HINDUISM (Vedic religion from c. 13th century BC)

Do not to others what ye do not wish done to yourself..
--This is the whole Dharma, heed it well.

The Mahabarata, cited in Das, 1955, p. 398.

ZOROASTRIANISM (c. 12th century BC)

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

Dadistan-i-Dinik, 94:5; in Müller, chapter 94, vol 18, 1882, p. 269.

JUDAISM (c. 10th? century BC)

What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor; that is the entire Torah; the rest is commentary; go learn it.

Babylonian Talmud, Shabbat 31a, as cited in Glatzer, 1969, p. 197.

BUDDHISM (c. 6th century BC)

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

Udanavargu, 5:18, Tibetan Dhammapada, 1983.

JAINISM (c. 6th century BC)

In happiness and suffering, in joy and grief,
regard all creatures as you would regard your own self.

Yoga-Sastra, cited in Bull, 1969, p. 92.

CONFUCIANISM (c. 6th century BC)

Do not do to others what you do not want done to yourself.

Confucius, Analects, 15:23, 6:28; Mahabharara, 5:1517,
in Confucius, The Analects, 1992.

CHRISTIANITY (c. 1st century AD)

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Luke 6:13

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you.

Matthew 7:12

ISLAM (c. 7th century AD)

No one of you is a believer until you desire for another that which you desire for yourself.

The Sunnah (from the Hadith), publ. 1975.

Gregory IX to French bishops concerning the attitude of Christians towards the Jews:

"Est autem Judæis a Christianis exhibenda benignitas, quam Christianis in Paganismo existentibus cupimus exhiberi"

(Christians must show towards Jews the same good will which we desire to be shown to Christians in pagan lands)

In a Brief dated 6 April, 1233

SIKHISM (c. 15th century AD)

Be not estranged from another for, in every heart, Pervades the Lord.

Sri Guru Granth Sahib, in Singh (trans.) 1963, p. 250.

BAHÁ'Í (c. 19th century AD)

Ascribe not to any soul that which thou wouldst not have ascribed to thee, and say not that which thou doest not. This is my command unto thee, do thou observe it.

Bahá'u'lláh, The Hidden Words, Arabic 29