

THE SPARK OF KINDNESS

Text: Matthew 7:12

You can't control the decisions that others make — whether or not anyone else chooses to live by the Golden Rule — but you can control the d_____ you make.

And if you make a choice to live today according to principle of "*do unto others*", you just might discover that your actions create a spark that will spread to those around you, and will inspire them to follow your e_____.

These are three guidelines to go by that will help you stay focused on living out the Golden Rule. .

1. Make it your aim to be intentionally c_____.

In living out the Golden Rule, this is a good place to start — by observing this principle in its negative form. .

We shouldn't demand that others do that which we are not willing to do.

We shouldn't treat others in a way that we ourselves don't want to be treated.

We shouldn't speak to others in a way that we wouldn't want to be spoken to. Ref: Phil. 2:4; 4:5

2. Make it your aim to take the i_____ in being kind.

The guideline for living a Golden Rule lifestyle is not that you give everyone else everything they want, it's that you love them as you love yourself. Ref: Mark 12:29-31

It's not that you hold no one accountable. It's that you hold others accountable in the way that you want to be held accountable — in a spirit of love, compassion, and patience.

The real key to putting this principle into practice is that you are the one willing to take the initiative. You are the one willing to make the first move.

3. Make it your aim to *want* the b_____ for others. Ref: Prov. 14:30; 1ST Cor. 13:4

Here's what it means to a Golden Rule lifestyle: You truly *want* the best for others, and at every opportunity you *give* your best to others.

Do to others whatever you would them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets. (Matthew 7:12)

