

MESSAGE NOTES: THE GOLDEN RULE

Leviticus 19:18

Love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.

- *Personally, I am very fond of strawberries and cream, but I have found that for some strange reason, fish prefer worms. So when I went fishing, **I didn't think about what I wanted. I thought about what they wanted.** I didn't bait the hook with strawberries and cream. Rather, I dangled a worm or grasshopper in front of the fish and said: "Wouldn't you like to have that?" Dale Carnegie from his book, "How to win Friends and Influence People"*

Leviticus 19:15-16

Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly. ¹⁶ Do not go about spreading slander among your people. Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor's life. **I am the LORD.**

- **Isaiah 11:2-4**

The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—³ and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; ⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

- **Galatians 3:26-28**

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Leviticus 19:17-18

Do not hate a fellow Israelite in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in their guilt. ¹⁸ Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. **I am the LORD.**

- **1 John 3:15**

Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

Faith Group Questions

1. Share some truths you gleaned from the message about God, yourself, and your neighbor.

2. The LORD our God does not show favoritism or partiality and commands us to judge others fairly. Look up the following passages and write down how they will help you do that.
 - a. Proverbs 18:17
 - b. Matthew 7:15-20
 - c. Matthew 7:1-5

3. Loving your neighbor entails not hating or holding a grudge against someone who has hurt you. Look up the following passages and identify the steps Jesus gives to achieve reconciliation.
 - a. Luke 17:3-6
 - b. Matthew 18:15-20

4. Which of the steps do you struggle with the most and why?

5. What can your group pray for?