

The Golden Rule in Various Religious and Philosophical Traditions

It is interesting that the Golden Rule, or the rule of reciprocity exists in almost every faith and philosophical tradition on earth. Many of these formulations predate Jesus. In fact, the Rabbi Hillel formulated a reciprocity statement about a hundred years before Jesus in the Judaic tradition. We're inserting this here not to undercut the teachings of Jesus, but to show, as Paul states in Romans, that there is truth from God that is apparent and attainable by all people, anytime, anywhere. We are all without excuse in the way that we live with and love each other. (Romans 1:18-20) These are the things we can be sure of—as Jesus said, let's start here.

Christianity / In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets. Jesus, Matthew 7:12

Judaism / What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbour. This is the whole Torah; all the rest is commentary. Go and learn it. Hillel, Talmud, Shabbath 31a

Buddhism / Treat not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful. The Buddha, Udana-Varga 5.1

Confucianism / One word which sums up the basis of all good conduct....loving-kindness. Do not do to others what you do not want done to yourself. Confucius, Analects 15.23

Hinduism / This is the sum of duty: do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you. Mahabharata 5:1517

Islam / Not one of you truly believes until you wish for others what you wish for yourself. The Prophet Muhammad, 13th of the 40 Hadiths of Nawawi

Jainism / One should treat all creatures in the world as one would like to be treated. Mahavira, Sutrakritanga

Sikhism / I am a stranger to no one; and no one is a stranger to me. Indeed, I am a friend to all. Guru Granth Sahib, pg. 1299

Taoism / Regard your neighbour's gain as your own gain and your neighbour's loss as your own loss. Lao Tzu, T'ai Shang Kan Ying P'ien, 213-218

Baha'i Faith / Lay not on any soul a load that you would not wish to be laid upon you, and desire not for anyone the things you would not desire for yourself. Baha'u'llah, Gleanings

Unitarianism / We affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. Unitarian principle

Native Spirituality / We are as much alive as we keep the earth alive. Chief Dan George

Zoroastrianism / Do not do unto others whatever is injurious to yourself. Shayast-na-Shayast 13.29

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