

RELIGIOUS VALUES

GETTING PAST THE DIFFERENCES TO DISCOVER WHAT RELIGIONS AGREE ON

"Every religion emphasizes human improvement, love, respect for others, sharing other people's suffering. On these lines every religion had more or less the same viewpoint and the same goal." - The Dalai Lama

Bahá'í World Faith

"Ascribe not to any soul that which thou wouldst not have ascribed to thee, and say not that which thou doest not."

"Blessed is he who preferreth his brother before himself." Baha'u'llah

"And if thine eyes be turned towards justice, choose thou for thy neighbor that which thou choosest for thyself." Epistle to the Son of the Wolf

"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

Brahmanism

"This is the sum of duty: Do naught unto others which would cause you pain if done to you". Mahabharata, 5:1517

Buddhism

"...a state that is not pleasing or delightful to me, how could I inflict that upon another?" Samyutta Nikaya v. 353

"Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful." Udana-Varga 5:18

Christianity

"And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise." Luke 6:31, King James Version.

"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

"...and don't do what you hate...", Gospel of Thomas 6. *The Gospel of Thomas is one of about 40 gospels that were widely accepted among early Christians, but which never made it into the Christian Scriptures (New Testament).*

Confucianism

"Do not do to others what you do not want them to do to you" Analects 15:23

"Tse-kung asked, 'Is there one word that can serve as a principle of conduct for life?' Confucius replied, 'It is the word 'shu' -- reciprocity. Do not impose on others what you yourself do not desire.'" Doctrine of the Mean 13.3

"Try your best to treat others as you would wish to be treated yourself, and you will find that this is the shortest way to benevolence." Mencius VII.A.4

Ancient Egyptian

"Do for one who may do for you, that you may cause him thus to do." The Tale of the Eloquent Peasant, 109 - 110

Translated by R.B. Parkinson. The original dates to 1970 to 1640 BCE and may be the earliest version ever written.

Hinduism

"One should not behave towards others in a way which is disagreeable to oneself." Mencius VII.A.4

"This is the sum of the Dharma [duty]: do naught unto others which would cause you pain if done to you." Mahabharata 5:1517

Humanism

"Humanists acknowledge human interdependence, the need for mutual respect and the kinship of all humanity."

"Humanists affirm that individual and social problems can only be resolved by means of human reason, intelligent effort, critical thinking joined with compassion and a spirit of empathy for all living beings. "

"Don't do things you wouldn't want to have done to you" - British Humanist Society.

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

"Therefore, neither does he [a sage] cause violence to others nor does he make others do so." Acarangasutra 5.101-2.

"In happiness and suffering, in joy and grief, we should regard all creatures as we regard our own self." Lord Mahavira, 24th Tirthankara

"A man should wander about treating all creatures as he himself would be treated." Sutrakritanga 1.11.33

Judaism

"...thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.", Leviticus 19:18

"And what you hate, do not do to any one." Tobit 4:15 6

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

Native American Spirituality

"Respect for all life is the foundation." The Great Law of Peace.

"All things are our relatives; what we do to everything, we do to ourselves. All is really One." Black Elk

"We are as much alive as we keep the earth alive." Chief Dan George

Roman Pagan Religion

"The law imprinted on the hearts of all men is to love the members of society as themselves."

Shinto

"The heart of the person before you is a mirror. See there your own form"

Sikhism

"Compassion-mercy and religion are the support of the entire world". Japji Sahib

"Don't create enmity with anyone as God is within everyone." Guru Arjan Devji 259

"No one is my enemy, none a stranger and everyone is my friend." Guru Arjan Dev : AG 1299

Sufism

"The basis of Sufism is consideration of the hearts and feelings of others. If you haven't the will to gladden someone's heart, then at least beware lest you hurt someone's heart, for on our path, no sin exists but this." - Dr. Javad Nurbakhsh, Master of the Nimatullahi Sufi Order.

Taoism

"Regard your neighbor's gain as your own gain, and your neighbor's loss as your own loss." T'ai Shang Kan Ying P'ien.

"The sage has no interest of his own, but takes the interests of the people as his own. He is kind to the kind; he is also kind to the unkind: for Virtue is kind. He is faithful to the faithful; he is also faithful to the unfaithful: for Virtue is faithful."

Tao Teh Ching, Chapter 49

Unitarian

"We affirm and promote respect for the interdependent of all existence of which we are a part." Unitarian principles.

Wicca

"An it harm no one, do what thou wilt" (i.e. do what ever you will, as long as it harms nobody, including yourself).

"One's will is to be carefully thought out in advance of action." - the Wiccan Rede

Yoruba (Nigeria)

"One going to take a pointed stick to pinch a baby bird should first try it on himself to feel how it hurts."

Zoroastrianism

"That nature alone is good which refrains from doing unto another whatsoever is not good for itself". Dadistan-i-dinik 94:5

"Whatever is disagreeable to yourself do not do unto others." Shayast-na-Shayast 13:29

Non-Religious Principles

Some philosophers' statements are:

Epictetus: "What you would avoid suffering yourself, seek not to impose on others." (*circa 100 CE*)

Plato: "May I do to others as I would that they should do unto me." (*Greece; 4th century BCE*)

Socrates: "Do not do to others that which would anger you if others did it to you." (*Greece; 5th century BCE*)

Seneca: "Treat your inferiors as you would be treated by your superiors," Epistle 47:11 (*Rome; 1st century CE*)

Examples from moral/ethical systems are:

Humanism: "...critical intelligence, infused by a sense of human caring, is the best method that humanity has for resolving problems. Reason should be balanced with compassion and empathy and the whole person fulfilled." *Humanist Manifesto II; Ethics section.*

Scientology: "20: Try to treat others as you would want them to treat you." *This is one of the 21 moral precepts that form the moral code explained in L. Ron Hubbard's booklet "The Way to Happiness."*

RELIGIOUS COMMONALITIES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MESSAGE OF THE GOLDEN RULE	MESSAGE OF THE GOLDEN RULE FOR YOU	MESSAGE OF THE GOLDEN RULE & ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR SOCIETY
<p>* What is the message of the Golden Rule?</p> <p>* A similar moral principle is expressed in the Sacred Writings of these religious traditions - What conclusions can you draw from this fact?</p> <p>* Can you see differences and similarities among the Sacred Texts? What are they?</p>	<p>* Which expression of the Golden Rule do you like the best? Why?</p> <p>* How would you express the Golden Rule in your own words?</p> <p>* Think of one occasion when someone treated you in the spirit of the Golden Rule. When was that? Who was involved? What was that like for you? How did you feel? How do you understand the behavior of the other party involved in this incident?</p> <p>* Think of one occasion when you treated someone in the spirit of the Golden Rule. When was that? Who was involved? What was that like for you? How did you feel? What is your sense of the other party's reaction to your behavior in that situation?</p> <p>* Think of one occasion when someone treated you in a manner that violated the Golden Rule. When was that? Who was involved? What was that like for you? How did you feel? How do you understand the behavior of the other party involved in that incident?</p> <p>* Think of one occasion when you treated someone in a manner that violated the Golden Rule. When was that? Who was involved? What was that like for you? How did you feel? What is your sense of the other party's reaction to your behavior in that situation?</p> <p>* Did anything in these Sacred Writings get you thinking? Identify it. Did it interest, stimulate or energize you? Or, did it irritate, challenge or bewilder you? Why?</p> <p>* What surprises you about these Sacred Texts? Why? What challenges you? Puzzles you? Why?</p> <p>* What insights or good ideas come to you as you reflect on these Sacred Writings?</p> <p>* What doubts or questions are raised for you as you ponder these Sacred Texts?</p> <p>* Is there something you can name within your workplace (or school, family, city, etc.) that promotes or prevents the practice of the Golden Rule?</p> <p>* If you were to live by the Golden Rule each and every day, what would be different in your life? Your personal life? Family life? Work Life? Community Life? etc.</p> <p>* Can the Golden Rule be realistically applied in day-to-day life? Why or why not? Can you think of a good example from your experience? Describe it.</p>	<p>* What could things be like if everyone behaved according to the Golden Rule? Why is it that sometimes we don't behave according to the Golden Rule?</p> <p>* Do you think that people generally live by the Golden Rule? Why? Why not? If not, what Rule do you think many people do live by?</p> <p>* How do people usually treat each other at work (school, home, etc.)? Why is that so? How might the Golden Rule make a difference?</p> <p>* Select a social, political, economic or religious issue that interests you. How might these Sacred Writings contribute to your thinking about or acting on this issue?</p> <p><i>* Across the planet, thousands of people including educators, humanitarians and religious people are working to develop a Global Ethic (www.global-ethic.org). This effort to develop a universal ethic, which calls upon the wisdom of the world's many religions, considers the Golden Rule to be a key reference point. Here, the Golden Rule is not just a moral ideal for relationships between people but also for relationships among nations, cultures, races and religions. Do you think that the development of a Global Ethic is important? Why or why not? If yes, do you think that the Golden Rule could make an important contribution to this universal ethic? Why or why not?</i></p>