PLANTING ROOTS

IN CHRIST · AT HOME · IN OUR COMMUNITY

THANK YOU - From the Board of Directors We would like to say "Thank You" for making Planting Roots such a huge success. Your Generosity is truly amazing and we look forward to this Journey with our church family.

PUMPKIN KILLING TODAY! From 2-4:30pm, On our Property Invite a friend for pumpkin carving, eating, fighting & slinging!

November 7th 7pm info@ourelement.org

CONNECT PARTY

HOLIDAY BAZAAR November 8th 9a-3p elementmoms@ourelement.org

AGAPE THANKSGIVING Sunday, November 23rd Dinner & Bonfire

CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS December 6th cfk@ourelement.org

SEE ALL UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

ourelement.org/events



Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this right now by building our own building on the land just north of us (we must be out of this one by December 2016). There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If it gets too hot we may hand out popsicles too help you cool off and give you a sugar rush. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15am service. Please understand that all of these "challenges" are because of our love for Jesus, people, and growth that has come quickly. These are good thing Jesus is doing here. If you would like more information about our building process or how you can participate you can visit www.elementroots.org. - The Element Team



Rules That Are Golden 37 Matthew 7:12



TODAY'S VERSES John 15:17 Matthew 7:29

Matthew 7:12 Matthew 22:34-36 Ephesians 2:8-9 Geremiah 17:9-10

RULES THAT ARE GOLDEN

John 15:17 These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

The "Golden Rule" is one of the most well-known sayings in the world. Many teachers spoke about it, and taught it, but usually from a much more negative cast than Jesus does.

- Judaism: What is hateful to you, do not to your fellow man
- Buddhism: Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful
- Ancient Egyptian: Do for one who may do for you, that you may cause him thus to do
- Confucianism: Do not do to others what you do not want them to do to you

Jesus turns all of this on its head by stating the "Golden Rule" as a positive that links to grace and all the Old Testament scriptures.

We also see Jesus connect this verse ("So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets") to the greatest commandments (**read Matt 22:34-36**). As we learned in the sermon, Jesus was alluding to a well-known Jewish concept: "That which is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow."

How is Jesus' law (Matthew 7:12) a higher calling than simply avoiding hateful behavior?

How do you want others to treat you? Do you tend to treat others in that same way?

While Jesus commands us to treat others with the same love and respect we desire, we can easily get caught up in our own behavior. As shared in the sermon, an emphasis on our own works is often the largest threat to our spiritual growth and understanding of grace. **Read Ephesians 2:8-9.**

What works of yours tempt you to be boastful?

What standards do you set for yourself that you feel you have to live up to?

Grace is a complicated thing. It is rich and beautiful in its power to save us and reconcile us to God, yet it can also seem threatening, because it removes any claim we might have to our own progress or self-sufficiency. It is *humbling*. However, only when we understand and recognize the weight of God's grace, will we be able to walk in the freedom that He has sacrificially obtained for us.

Grace goes against everything in our nature. Our hearts deceive us (**read Jeremiah 17:9**) into asserting our own capabilities and independence, but the truth is that we have no salvation outside the grace of Jesus Christ. We must remember the desperate nature of our spiritual condition (being poor in Spirit) and run to the Cross.

In what areas is it difficult for you to admit your dependency on God?

As Timothy Keller said, "Any time somebody really gets what it means to be saved by grace, it will wreck you." It will devastate any false notions we have of how "fine" or "well off" we are. It is not always easy to come face-to-face with our brokenness, but we have the opportunity to repent and experience God's grace every day. Repentance can seem like a scary word, but it is something we need to embrace and do often. It is simply confessing to God (and sometimes others) and living in the forgiveness that has already been extended to you. It is laying the burden at His feet.

What hardness of heart do you need to repent of?

Where have you relied on your own works instead of God's grace?

It is from this understanding that Jesus speaks of the "golden rule"—not from a place of our own righteousness, but of simply responding to the grace that has been shown to us. Because our lives have been so incredibly changed by grace, we should treat others in a way like no one else.

In what ways have you been withholding grace from other people? How can that change?

37 - SERMON NOTES