

Introduction

- I. The Christian life can be simplified to this one law or command.
- II. This is the summarizing word for the Christian life because this kind of life reflects the love of God.

The Golden Rule for Loving the Neighbor

I. *The Beautiful Idea*

- A. To understand rightly the golden rule, we must see that Jesus addressed this command to citizens of the kingdom of heaven.

- B. What is Jesus teaching us in this command?

1. First, He is teaching us to think of others.
2. Second, Jesus emphasizes activity – we are called to do things for each other from this perspective: what would you like others to do for you if the table was turned?

II. *The Biblical Source*

- A. Jesus is saying that this summarizes the law and the prophets. This is what the OT was teaching.

- B. The law and the prophets empower us to follow this golden rule.

III. *The Necessary Life*

- A. The golden rule is tied to the preceding verses with the word "therefore." We must do this because this reflects the love God shows to us in Christ Jesus.

- B. The principle of the Christian life is simple, but not easy.