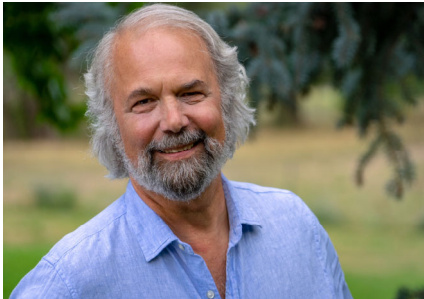


THE GREATER SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GOLDEN RULE

PULSE OF SPIRIT

FEBRUARY 9, 2022



DAVID KARCHERE is a speaker and workshop leader who assists people to renew their Primal Spirituality—an experience that virtually all human beings know at birth, and that ideally grows as they mature.

In this *Pulse of Spirit*, I am using the pronoun *you*. There are various ways you could read what I've written. The most obvious is that I am writing to you. But you could also read it as me addressing my own human soul, which I am. And if that is the case, you could join me by addressing your human soul. You could also be thinking of people in your life who are suffering because there is something they do not understand about what brings fulfillment. So you could understand the word *you* as a way to address them vibrationally.

Think of anything that you wish for in your human experience. Depending on what it is, you may be able to satisfy your urge simply by reaching for the object of your desire. But if what you wish for is of larger significance in your life, you cannot simply get it for yourself. It has to be given to you by the Universe—by the cycles of

time, another person, the natural world, or by the mystical source of life.

You can't make another person love you. You can't make the birds sing or the tides ebb and flow. You can't force someone else to see you for who you are or appreciate your presence in their life.

But here is what you *can* do yourself. You can give the gifts you have to give to the Universe.

The Golden Rule is a principle found in virtually all the world's major religions and ethical traditions. In Western culture, it is often put this way:

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Here is a corollary to this articulation of the Golden Rule:

*Don't treat others in ways you
wouldn't like to be treated.*

This principle is so simple that it is often told to children. And perhaps it rings in our minds as something we really “should” do but often don’t, as if we were an unruly child admonished by their parent.

But what if we understood this ethical teaching as something more than a moral imperative, often ignored? What if we understood it as a powerful principle that transforms the human experience with ultimate reliability?

If a person sees this greater significance to the Golden Rule, that enlightened understanding will become a powerful force for spiritual regeneration and renewal.

The Golden Rule is not just a teaching for moral goodness. It is a principle that operates in every dimension of human experience. Think of anything you might desire. It operates there.

Jesus taught this related to forgiveness. Did you ever wish someone in your world would forgive you for something you did? You can’t make them. But here is what you can do:

*...if ye forgive men their trespasses,
your heavenly Father will also forgive
you....*

This is how the principle works. For anything important in life, you have to give it to receive it. And how do you know it is important? How do you know that the people in your life need it? You want it. And your want is a guide to understanding the ungiven gift within you.

*But if ye forgive not men their
trespasses, neither will your Father
forgive your trespasses.*

Don’t withhold the gift.

I notice in my own heart, and in the experience of people in my world, the desire to have our place. This carries with it the yearning to be given our rightful position in the social structure in which we find ourselves—our family, community, organization, or circle of friends. It includes a craving to be seen and acknowledged for who we are and for the creative gifts we give to the world.

We can demand that our friends and associates respect us and give us what we see as our rightful place in the social structure. We can attempt to fit in to please other people or show up enthusiastically to capture their attention. And there is nothing inherently wrong with demanding respect from others, pleasing others, or showing up enthusiastically. But as an ultimate strategy for finding one’s place, attempting to fit into a social structure is a loser.

*Do unto others as you would have them
do unto you.*

A person obsessed with their own place in the world probably fails to notice that the people around them are feeling the same need. That person doesn't see that their desire is telling them something about the need any human being has to know their place.

And so, on our spiritual journey, we begin to ask ourselves, *How can I assist the people around me to know their place? How can I tell them that they have a place in my life? How can I help them know they are seen, acknowledged, and respected by me?*

Say the words that the human heart wants to hear. And how do you know what they are? Simple. Your experience of your own heart and soul is your guide. We are not all that different from each other, you know.

This is the Golden Rule at work in the world of human relations. What we discover when we awaken to it is that we are divinely empowered to *give* the gifts we are desiring. And when we give them, we realize they have been given to us all along. In the act of forgiveness, we confirm that we *are* forgiven, and we have forgiveness to share. In giving someone else their rightful place, we know our place. In seeing them for who they are, we know ourselves for who we are.

You are not just being a good person when you follow the Golden Rule. You are empowered. You are transformed and fulfilled. You are participating in spiritual regeneration.

The Golden Rule does not operate only between people. It is at work in our relationship with the invisible source of Being that we sometimes call *God*. Think of what it is like to feel lost on your life journey and then what it feels like to be right where you belong, in the place that is just right for you. What turns one experience into the other?

*Do unto others as you would have them
do unto you.*

God can seem so mysterious. And yet, when you make a place for the source of your life—when you begin to make friends with it—your experience of your place changes. The more you acknowledge and respect the vastness of the Universe and the power and presence of the Creator, the more you feel your own power and presence. The Great Mystery has a place in your life. And now you are granted a place in the life of the Great Mystery.

Your prayers will be met with a deafening silence if you demand that the Great Mystery acknowledge and answer you. But as your prayers acknowledge and answer the Great Mystery, you hear its call.

These words are from my poem *The Calling*. They portray what I hear from the Great Mystery.

*Take your place.
Be where you belong
In thought,
In feeling,
In awareness,
In answering the calling of your life,
The calling of the reality you are,
And which you serve.*

*Join me, dear one,
At the center of the storm,
Inside the clamor and the noise,
Cloaked in my love,
Bathed in my peace,
Overflowing with my joy.
You belong here.*

Letting the Golden Rule work in our relationship with the Great Mystery, it is a

mystery no more. Something else happens, too. Knowing your place, knowing you are part of the Great Mystery, you have that reality to share in your world—that Presence, that greater Love, that greater Light. And you are empowered to see the rightful place of everyone you meet.

So the next time you desire something from people in your world, try giving it to someone. See what happens.

*David Karchere (Sunrise Ranch)
dkarchere@emnet.org
Sunday Service
February 6, 2022*



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