

## Platinum Rule or the Golden Rule... or both!

You undoubtedly learned about the Golden Rule when you were little. While you might think that your mother made it up, the Golden Rule has been around for eons. Its origins are likely based in practical strategies for successful communal living but there are many references to similar principals in various religions including:

- Buddhism - "Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful."
- Islam - "That which you want for yourself, seek for mankind."
- Confucianism – "Do not impose on others what you do not desire others to impose upon you", and
- Christianity - "All things therefore that you want people to do to you, do thus to them."

It is a great rule and one you might consider living your life by. Think about it. If everyone lived based on the Golden Rule, the world would be a much happier place.

It, however, is based in a view starting with the self. I will treat you like **I wish to be treated**. What would it be like to treat others as they wish to be treated?

This is the Platinum Rule: **Do Unto Others As They Wish You Do Unto Them**

If you followed the Platinum Rule, you would not treat people like you want to be treated, but you would treat others how *they* want to be treated. Pretty simple. While some might debate the morality quotient (if there is such a thing) with these rules, it is best to consider which one would work the best to get along with your fellow human beings. Both rules seem to have good intent and would work although I think the Platinum Rule works to help people be more empathetic.

Being empathetic is a good thing. It helps us understand people and it helps guide our behaviour in a caring and respectful manner. Truly caring about somebody and being respectful of them, is a critical feature about being cooperative, being liked by others, and being able to get along with others.

Consider your work and home life.

- How would your life be different if these principals guided your encounters with others?
- How would you be different at work?
- How would you be different with your spouse or friends?
- How would you be different in your community?
- How would you feel about yourself?

*Laws control the lesser man, right conduct controls the greater one*

*Chinese Proverb*