

Three Simple Rules



GROWTH GUIDE OCTOBER 27, 2024

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Matthew 22:37-40

AUTHOR

Matthew (Levi), a Jewish tax collector, became one of Jesus' disciples. Matthew wrote especially to the Jews and the purpose of this gospel was to present clear evidence that Jesus is the Messiah, the Savior. It was written approximately A.D. 60-65.

CONTEXT

Jesus is questioned by Pharisees – religious leaders – about the greatest commandment

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Matthew 22:37-40. What stands out to you about this scripture? What was Jesus' reply to the Pharisee?
2. How can we faithfully live as disciples of Jesus?
3. Are we really measuring up to our calling as children of God?
4. Is there a better way for us to practice our faith?
5. What does it mean to do no harm?
6. Sometimes we do harm without meaning too. Can you think of an example? What about silence – do we cause harm by our silence, sometimes?
7. In conflict, if we agree to do no harm, the climate in which the conflict is going on is immediately changed. How is it changed? (see page 22)
8. What does it mean to do good?

9. What are some ways you have practiced the rule, do good? What challenges have you experienced trying to practice this rule?
10. Have there been times you have retreated from doing good because of fear of rejection and ridicule? Can you recall times when you chose to do good in the face of rejection? If so, what empowered you?
11. How do the following scriptures inspire you to practice doing good? Read I John 3:17-18; Romans 12; Galatians 5:22-6:2.
12. What gifts do you see in the people of our congregation? How are these gifts used to practice doing good? How can you use your gifts for the practice of doing good? How do you think the community outside your church is affected by using your gifts to do good?
13. To stay in love with God, John Wesley believed Christians must observe certain spiritual disciplines. What disciplines are you observing in your life and what challenges or benefits have you experienced?
14. Read the following scripture passages: Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Matthew 22:34-40; I Kings 8; John 4. What do they say to you about ways to stay in love with God?
15. After considering the three simple rules, which one seems the most challenging for you at this time of your life? What choices or changes can you make in order to live out the three simple rules in the Wesleyan way of living?

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