

The Universal Golden Rule

I have stated in a previous post that at one time we were all one people prior to the confounding of the languages at Babel.

“In archeological and critical historical religious literature the authors (usually agnostic, atheist or secular) often attempt to make one believe other cultures are older and predate that of Scriptural writ, simply because physical evidence found is often older than the earliest Biblical manuscripts. They claim that the Biblical writers took traditions and stories from these so called older cultures and adopted them as their own creation story and flood account and so on. However, if one believes the inerrancy of Scripture one would easily realize that the entire world was at one time one people, language and culture until the confounding of the languages at the Tower of Babel. Thus, in the post Babel world everyone took the shared traditions and legends from the Creation to the Flood and all the prophecies of redemption and messiah that lies therein and molded into what each people group has become. This is why every people group has a creation and flood story. Just because most all cultures have legends of virgin births, god-men messiahs, and just because they appear in Christianity and Nazarene Judaism in the truthful events does not mean they were gleaned from a pre-Biblical pagan culture of Mesopotamians, Canaanites or what have you. No, we did not rip stories from them and claimed them as our own holy history, they ripped stories from us.” – Where Did Paganism Come From? Rabbi Yehudah ben Shomeyr

One interesting principle that has made its way around the globe among virtually every people group of the earth is what Christianity has termed “The Golden Rule”

“Do to others as you would have them do to you” – Yeshua, Matthew 7:12

Yeshua didn't make this up; he learned this from Rabbi's and sages growing up. For a Sage around the same time who was the founder of one of two schools of Jewish thought named Hillel is recorded as saying in the Talmud, the compendium of Jewish Law:

“What is hateful to you, do not unto your neighbor. This is the whole Torah; the rest is just commentary. Go and learn it.” Hillel, Talmud, Sabbath 31a

Zoroastrianism, the original Persian religion says:

“Do not do unto others whatever is injurious to yourself.” Shayast-na-Shayast
13.29

Now The Jews were once subject to King Cyrus who was good to the Jewish People, perhaps that is where they picked this concept up.

The other Abrahamic religion of Islam says:

“Not one of you truly believes until you wish for others what you wish for yourself.” Muhammad, Hadith

Let us examine the Eastern Asian religions and what they have to say about the Golden Rule:

Buddhism: “Treat not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.”
Buddha, Udana-Varga 5.18

Confucianism: “One word which sums up the basis of all good conduct... loving kindness. Do not do to others what you do not want done to yourself.” Confucius, Analects 15.23

Hinduism: “This is the sum of duty, do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you.” Mahabharata 5:1517

Jainism: “One should treat all creatures in the world as one would like to be treated.” Mahavira, Sutakritanga 1.11.33

Sikhism: “I am a stranger to no one; and no one is a stranger to me. Indeed, I am a friend to all.” Guru Granth Sahib, p.1299

Taoism: “Regard your neighbor’s gain as your own gain and your neighbor’s loss as your own loss.” Lao Tzu, T’ai Shang Kan Ying P’ien, 213-218

Even the modern religious movements have picked up on this concept.

Baha’I Faith: “Lay not on any soul a load that you would not wish to be laid upon you, and desire not for anyone the things you would not desire for yourself.”
Baha’u’llah, Gleanings

Unitarianism: “We affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are apart.” Unitarian principle

Native American Spirituality too has a way of putting it.

“We are as much alive as we keep the earth alive.” Chief Dan George

Even in blatantly pagan religions such as Wicca have what is called the three fold law in that whatever you do to someone else will be done back upon you three fold; like unto the Karma of Eastern religions. This meshes well with the golden rule.

Even in Greek Philosophy the Golden Rule has found a place:

"No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted." Aesop

The obvious exception would be Satanism which Anton Levye states in the Satanic Bible:

“Do what thou wilt is the whole of the law.”

To be honest, the Golden Rule (Now don't stone me for saying this) like unto the Rule of Selfishness of Satanism, is indeed selfish too, but a selfishness that if observed is benefit to everyone. In other words the way I look out for “number one” is by looking out for the “other guy”.

This principle is engrained with in us because we are fallen selfish creatures. The Golden Rule is a type of Self Preservation and Self Preservation is what evolutionist calls a “Primal Instinct”. Anyone, from any people group who sat and thought would come to the conclusion perhaps on seeing two people do each other wrong in some way might say to themselves:

“You know I wouldn't do that to a person, because I wouldn't want it done to me!”

I am in no way an Ecumenical Interfaith type of guy, although I do have friends from various religions, but it is foolish to try to deny that there are no universal common principles in virtually every faith. And grain of the truth which lies within each culture; which lends to the possibility of a pagan culture to come to the truth. Indeed, it is an ingenious plan of the evil one to hide truth in plain sight, yet disguised in cultural paganism that if welded correctly will be the double edged sword that pierces the Adversary.

Shalom,
-- Yehudah ben Shomeyr