

CHRISTIANITY & JESUSONIANISM

Inception: ~ 30 CE *Adherents:* ~ 2.3 Billion



The Golden Rule

*"This is my command; that you love one another, even as I have loved you." **

— Jesus (7BC – 30 AD)

Primary Value Proposition: “The Kingdom of Heaven is within you!” Implicit to the “Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of Man” is rebirth into God's Spiritual Family.

The Word of (about and / or attributed to) God

- This one God is our heavenly Father, in whom all things consist, and who dwells, by his spirit, in every sincere human soul.
- We who are the children of God should learn how to commit the keeping of our souls to him as to a faithful Creator.
- With our heavenly Father all things are possible.
- We cannot search out God by knowledge, but we can know him in our hearts by personal experience.
- All good things come down from the Father of light, in whom there is no variableness neither shadow of changing.
- The spirit of the true God is in man's heart.
- We live in God and God dwells in us.

Core Beliefs

Christianity teaches that Jesus is the Son of God, God having become human and the savior of humanity. Christians believe that Jesus is the Messiah prophesied in the Hebrew Bible. The foundation of Christian theology is expressed in the early Christian ecumenical creeds, which contain claims predominantly accepted by followers of the Christian faith. These professions state that Jesus suffered, died, was buried, and was resurrected from the dead to open heaven to

those who believe in him and trust him for the remission of their sins (salvation). They further maintain that Jesus bodily ascended into heaven where he rules and reigns with God the Father.

Jesus is considered the model of a virtuous life, a balanced portrayal of the nature of God and service to man. He is and was both the revealer and physical incarnation of God. Christians call the message of Jesus Christ the Gospel ("good news") and hence refer to the earliest written accounts of his ministry as gospels. The unwritten gospel that Jesus and the Apostles went about preaching and teaching was based upon the Fatherhood of God and its correlated Truth, the Brotherhood of Man. Jesus compared the progressive growth of the faithful individual and society to that of a mustard seed. The Son of God always deferred to the Heavenly Father as he also placed great emphasis on the enveloping and indwelling spiritual ministries of the Holy Spirit as well as the Spirit of Truth.

THE GREAT CRESCENDO: *Jesusionianism* places greater emphasis on the religion *of* Jesus than does Pauline Christianity. The Apostle Paul focused primarily on the religion *about* Jesus. Emergent Christianity and the Urantia Movement are examples of this break from church tradition as they each highlight the statement wherein Jesus said: "The Kingdom of Heaven is within you." During the exemplary earth life of Jesus, the Master said: "This is my command; that you love one another, even as I have loved you." With this statement Jesus now and forever stands as the true gold standard for the golden rule. In order to truly understand the common admonition to 'do to others that which you desire others to do to you, and in light of the Jesusionian upgrade, we must consider distinct levels of meaning concerning the present day application of the Golden Rule. These include:

1. The level of the flesh: Focuses primarily on gratifying physical pleasures. The best case would involve indulging oneself as well as another with a positive regard for both parties enjoyment. On the other hand it can serve to glamorize a purely selfish, even lustful gratification as the "do one another" and pleasure mania cultures currently prescribe.
2. The level of the feelings: Involves certain emotional forms of sympathy and pity that can become highly addictive. These could manifest as self-centeredness or codependency. They could also indicate a sensitivity, together with a willingness to consider, both the personal values and the sentimental reactions of another.
3. The level of mind: Leverages the intelligence of experience to produce a profound respect for both self and other that benefits and frees both the giver and the receiver to share a compassionate harmony.
4. The level of brotherly and sisterly love: Recognizes the transforming power of the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood / sisterhood of humankind yielding an unselfish devotion expressed through wholehearted social service.
5. The moral level: Idealizes human relationships through highly philosophic levels of interpretation that favor the application of wisdom in the adjustment to all life situations.
6. The spiritual level. Embraces the spirit insight and spiritual interpretation honoring the divine command to treat all others as we conceive God would treat them. This final level is clearly evident in the manner of the Master upon acceptance of his soul satisfying admonition and command that we love one another even as he continues to love us.