

P.M. OUTLINE
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THE 4 RULES

(Romans 12:9-21)

INTRODUCTION

Rules - a statement spelling out the proper procedure or conduct for an activity;
law; code; ordinance; directive; precept; act laid down by a governing authority.

Rules, laws, are everywhere: home, school, job, society, nature.

1. THE IRON RULE: "Do unto others what you would not want them to do to you"

Added to it is: "And do it before they do it unto you."

It's the law of the jungle; might makes right; because I can.

It is vicious doing to others whatever you may wish so long as it serves your purpose,
and you do it with no concern for the welfare or desire of others.

(Gen. 4:8; 1 Kings 21:1-17)

2. THE BRASS RULE: "Do unto others as they do unto you"

Added to it: "And do more or worse than they did unto you"

It means to "act in kind;" retaliate; exact the same measure back to them; get even.

(Matt. 5:38) "Ye have heard that it has been said, An eye for an eye,
and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you ..."

3. THE SILVER RULE: "Do not do unto others what you would not want them to do unto you."

Added to it: "Don't do anything to help anyone else."

The rule is "passive;" don't do any harm and don't do any good; mind your own business;
leave me alone; and don't call on me; stay away from me.

Living in this manner, the person says, "I'll take care of myself and keep to myself."

(Luke 10:25-37) an opportunity exists, but don't count on me.

4. THE GOLDEN RULE: (Matthew 7:12) "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men
should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."

This rule is "active;" gets involved; seeks to benefit others; serves; volunteers.

Putting this rule in action identifies us with Christ: (John 13:34-35) "A new commandment
I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one
another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love
one to another."