**The Golden Rule – Children’s Funnies**

**Norman: “Bye, Mom!” Mom: “Bye, Norman! Remember your new motto: ‘Attack the day!’” When Norman comes home at the end of the day Mom asks: “How did it go?” Norman: “The day launched a counterattack!” *(Kevin Fagan, in Drabble comic strip)***

**Pianist Arthur Rubinstein never signed autographs, but a teenager once confronted him after a concert, held out a pad and pencil and said, “I know your fingers are tired, sir, but mine are, too--from clapping.” He signed. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**During a trip to Hawaii, the University of Louisville Cardinals basketball team scheduled a practice session in a community center on Maui. When the Cardinals arrived, they discovered that, because of a mixup, there were no basketballs on hand. As the coaches and players debated what to do, a young man arrived at the gym with an old, beat-up ball. Members of the Louisville contingent explained their predicament and asked if he would lend them his ball or at least share it. He said no. Okay, they asked, would he sell it? The bidding went from $15, to $20, to $30 and finally to $50, but still he declined. Eventually the Cardinals arranged for basketballs to be brought to the gym. Later, as the young man prepared to leave, a member of the Louisville party couldn’t resist telling him he’d been pretty dumb to turn down so much money. “Yeah,” the fellow replied, “but I’m smart enough to take a basketball along when I practice.” *(Sports Illustrated)***

**Zoe: “Hammie bit me on the lip!” Mom then says to Hammie: “What? Biting is not allowed, young man! Now you sit here and think about what you just did to your sister!” Mom then says to Zoe: “I can’t believe Hammie would bite you on the lip like that!” Zoe: “I know! You’d think nobody ever tried to lick him on the nose before!” *(Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott, in Baby Blues comic strip)***

**Jay’s Sunday school class met in the church after Mass. When he found a quarter under a pew, Jay’s teacher suggested he light a candle and say a prayer for his sick friend. He did so and laid his coin on the tray as he had seen others do. A few minutes later the teacher noticed Jay taking the quarter from the tray and putting it into his pocket. When she asked him why he had taken his donation back, he replied, “Oh, it’s OK, Mrs. Smith. I blew the candle out!” *(Cynthia A. Baker, in Catholic Digest)***

**If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn. If children live with hostility, they learn to fight. If children live with fear, they learn to be apprehensive. If children live with encouragement, they learn to be confident. If children live with fairness, they learn justice. If children live with tolerance, they learn to be patient. If children live with security, they learn to have faith in themselves and in those around them. *(Dorothy Law Nolte, in Children Learn What They Live)***

**On our refrigerator, we put a list of “positive reinforcements”--ways for parents to emphasize the good things their children do. Our 12-year-old son read through all the recommended parental comments which included “Nice job,” “You really tried hard,” “Thank you for helping,” “Great work” and the like. The next morning we found, penned at the bottom of the list, in my son’s writing: “Here’s a twenty, have fun”; “Take my credit card and get what you want”; “Here are my keys, the car’s in the driveway and will $50 be enough?” *(Jim Roach, in Reader’s Digest)***

**At Siena College in Londonville, N.Y., I constantly emphasize to my accounting students the importance of communicating clearly and concisely. Often I use memos and other documents from the business world as examples. One time I even passed around a poorly worded assignment given to my 13-year-old by his teacher. “No matter how many times I read this,” I said, “I couldn’t figure out what the teacher wanted my son to do.” At that point one of my better students mumbled, “Now you know how we feel.” *(William D. Haught, in Reader’s Digest)***

**The kindly old man stopped and smiled at the little tot as she sat on the veranda surrounded by her dolls. “My those are beautiful babies you have, aren’t they?” I’d tell the world they are!” “And do you play with dollies every day?” “Nope! Bobby, a little boy next door, gets ‘em one day a week and I get two lollipops alimony.” *(C. Kennedy, in Quote)***

**A man and his seven year old daughter got on a hotel elevator and headed up. Part way up, the elevator stopped, and on walked an absolutely gorgeous woman. She pushed the button for her floor, and the elevator started up again. Suddenly, she turned around and slapped the father very hard. About the same time, the elevator reached her floor and she got off. The little girl turned to her father and said, “She didn’t like you, did she?” “I guess not,” her father replied as he stroked his red cheek. “She certainly did slap me hard.” The little girl said, “Don’t feel bad, Dad. I didn’t like her either. She stepped on my toe, so I pinched her as hard as I could.” *(Anonymous)***

**Dad: “You’re my favorite daughter.” Dolly: “And you’re my favorite daddy!” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**My advanced-writing professor at Brigham Young University explained to us that the manner in which a question is asked affects the way it is answered. He then attempted to show the class what happens when a question becomes an attack. He asked a member of the BYU fencing team, “Why do you practice an archaic sport of swords and chivalry that died in the Dark Ages?” The student replied, “To become better acquainted with the graces and customs of your generation.” *(Phillip Larson)***

**After hearing much yelling and screaming, a father rushed into his sons’ room to find them in the middle of a fist fight. “Who started this?” asked the father. “It all started when Kevin hit me back,” said the older of the two boys. *(Jeannette Fidell, in Jokes)***

**A guy I know is sure that his kid has the makings of a good attorney. When he told the lad he expected him to have better grades this year, the youngster said, “I know I don’t get the best marks in school, Dad, but do you get the best salary at your office?” *(Oscar Jay)***

**I am a pastor and father of two children. The day before we were to attend a cousin’s high school graduation, I thought I’d prepare the kids, knowing how fidgety they can get. “Graduations are sometimes long, boring events,” I said. “I want you guys to behave and not ask constantly when it’s going to be over.” “Don’t worry, Dad. We’ll live,” my daughter replied. “We last through all your sermons, don’t we?”**

***(Rev. Matthew Sassano, Jr., in Reader’s Digest)***

**A six-year-old comes crying to his mother because his little sister pulled his hair. “Don’t be angry,” the mother says. “Your sister doesn’t realize that pulling hair hurts.” A short while later, there’s more crying, and the mother goes to investigate. This time the sister is howling and her brother says, “Now she knows.” *(Ron Dentinger)***

**Two seven-year-olds were fighting in their Sunday-school class. One boy told their teacher, “He hit me first. And it says in the Bible it’s all right to hit back.” “Where,” the Sunday-school teacher demanded, “did it say that in Scripture?” “You told us,” said the boy. “You said the Bible said you should ‘do one to others as others do one to you.” *(James Dent, in Charleston, W. Va., Gazette)***

**As Dolly looks at the banner that says “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you,” she says: “I think I’ll go give Gregory a hug.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**“I’m ashamed of you,” the father said to his lazy son. “You don’t even have a job. Why, when George Washington was your age, he was working hard in the wilderness as a surveyor.” “Yes,” said the boy. “And when he was your age, he was President of the United States.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Zoe: “Mom! Hammie kicked me!” Mom: “Hammie! Stop kicking your sister!” Zoe: “He kicked me again!” Mom: “Hammie! I said to stop kicking Zoe!” Zoe: “He kicked me again!” Mom: “What? Didn’t he hear what I said?” Zoe: “Yeah, but every time I pinch him, he kicks me anyway!” *(Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott, in Baby Blues comic strip)***

**In nature study the children were asked to tell of their various acts of kindness to animals. Several children told touching little stories of rescues and other generous deeds, and finally it was Timmie’s turn. “Now, Timmie,” asked the teacher, “what act of kindness to an animal have you done?” Timmie stood up proudly. “Well.” he announced, “once I kicked a boy for kicking his dog!” *(Pageant)***

**A gushy relative was greeting a four-year-old boy she hadn’t seen for some time. “Why,” she exclaimed, “the last time I was here you were only so high!” “Yes,” he replied, “and the last time I saw you were only so wide.” *(Modern Maturity)***

**A little boy announced to his father, “Dad, I’m going to marry Grandma!” Grinning, the father explained, “Son, you can’t marry your grandmother.” “Why not?” challenged the boy. “You married my mother so I’m going to marry yours!” *(The Preacher’s Illustration Service)***

**Dear God, did you really mean “Do unto others as they do unto you?” Because if you did, then I’m going to fix my brother! *(Stuart Hample and Eric Marshall)***

**A daughter rushed home to her father. “Dad, Bill asked me to marry him.” Father: “How much money does he have?” Daughter: “You men are all alike. He asked the same thing about you.” *(Joe Griffith, in Speaker’s Library of Business, p. 47)***

**A young businessman returned home tired from a hard day at the office. He found his young children rushing madly about the house. After scolding both of them, he sent them to bed as soon as they had finished their supper. The next morning he found a note pinned to his bedroom door: “Be good to your children and they will be good to you. Yours truly, God.” *(The Milwaukee Journal)***

**Little boy to father on the way home from church service: “Daddy, I saw you put that 25 cents in the offering plate. Is that all the Lord charged you for that long nap you had?” *(Baptist Courier)***

**David and his brother, Michael, were complete opposites. Michael was a successful businessman, while David took seasonal jobs at dude ranches, parks and resorts. Concerned for David’s welfare, Michael tried to entice him with the good life. He would send David photos labeled “My new sound system” or “My new car.” The campaign ended when Michael received a poster from his brother showing a breathtaking view of Wyoming’s Grand Teton National Park. On the back was David’s message: “My back yard.” *(Nancy Vitavec, in Reader’s Digest)***

**An ancient grandmother lived with her daughter and grandson. As she grew frail and feeble, instead of being a help around the house, she became a constant trial. She broke plates and cups, lost knives and spilled water. One day, exasperated because the old woman had broken another precious plate, the daughter sent the grandson to buy his grandmother a wooden plate. The boy hesitated because he knew a wooden plate would humiliate his grandmother. But his mother insisted, so off he went. He returned bringing not one, but two wooden plates. “I only asked you to buy one,” his mother said. “Didn’t you hear me?” “Yes,” said the boy. “But I bought the second one so there would be one for you when you get old.” *(A Palistani folktale)***

**While my girlfriend Sue and I were at the supermarket checkout, the clerk asked, “Do you prefer paper or plastic?” “Paper,” I replied and began to bag the groceries. “That will be $34.25,” the cashier said after she rang up the last item. As Sue pulled out her checkbook, she noticed the sign saying credit cards were accepted. “Do you prefer paper or plastic?” she asked the clerk. *(Ken Blosser, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Like most 12-year-olds, Masoud Karkehabadi is busy studying in school. Unlike other kids his age, however, he’s a senior in college, cracking the books in preparation for his medical-school entrance exams. With an A average and an I.Q. of more than 200 (140 is considered genius level), Karkehabadi will earn his biology degree from the University of California at Irvine in June. Then he’ll begin medical school the following fall and be well on his way to becoming a neurosurgeon--all before he’s old enough to get his driver’s license. For someone with an intellect that any adult would envy, Karkehabadi is refreshingly kidlike. He jumps from scientific discussions about 6-hydroxydopamine--a drug he uses in his research on Parkinson’s disease--to casual chats about his favorite Nintendo game. How have older students treated the preteen prodigy? “Some of them teased me at first,” he says. “But when I started tutoring them, they got much nicer.” *(Laura Hilgers, in Parenting)***

**Teacher: “Didn’t you promise to behave?” Janie: “Yes, sir.” Teacher: “And didn’t I promise to punish you if you didn’t?” Janie: “Yes, but since I broke my promise, can you break yours?” *(Denver Rocky Mountain News)***

**Billy says to his little brother: “Ask and you shall receive. Know who said that? Santa Claus.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**When my brother started selling 100-pound bags of potatoes at his service station, his new venture angered some of the local grocers. One supermarket owner drove into the gas station and asked, “When did you start selling groceries?” “The same day you started selling anti-freeze,” my brother replied. *(Jerry McGlothen)***

**Dolly says to Billy: “If we’re good all day, God gives us STARS at night like Mrs. Clarke does at school.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**A college professor was awarded a grant by a foundation to do scholarly work abroad. She had a problem, however. The grant came in the middle of the school year and she was unsuccessful in getting another professor to finish up the year with her class. The professor came up with a solution. She told her class about the foundation grant and said she would make tape recordings of her remaining lectures and that the recordings would be played during regular class hours. The students could listen to the tapes and take notes. The first class that was held under this arrangement was two days before the professor was to go abroad. When the class had started, the professor decided to check on how things were going. She quietly opened the rear door and peeked inside. She saw and heard her tape recorder on her desk, delivering the lecture. But there were no students in the classroom. On their seats were eighteen tape recorders, duplicating everything being said. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**One evening, our 14-year-old grandson, Doug, was left in charge of his younger sister, Sarah. His parents said to treat her as he would like to be treated. As they closed the door behind them, Doug turned to Sarah and announced, “I’m going to buy you a Porsche.” *(June Couch, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Child: “I wish I had a new bike.” Grandma: “Well, if wishes were fishes, we’d all have a fry, wouldn’t we? If wishes were horses, we’d have a stampede.” Child: “If wishes were bicycles, I’d be on my way.” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

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