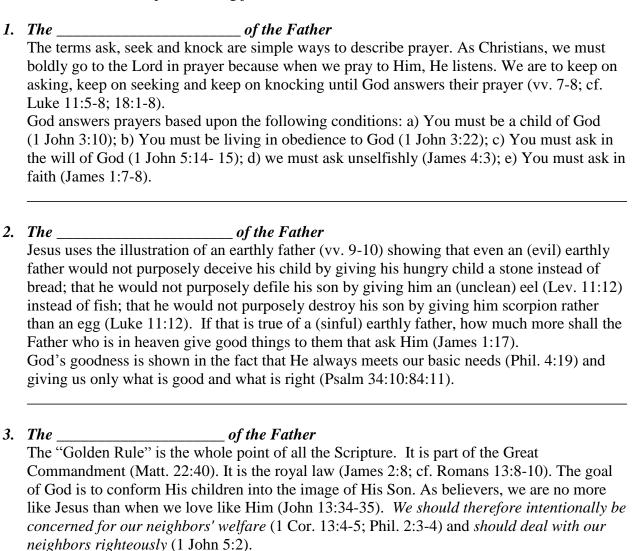
Start Loving

Matthew 7:7-12

The main theme of the Sermon on the Mount is to give the standards for those who live in God's kingdom. The Lord Jesus sums up His teaching in verse 12 in what is known as the Golden Rule: "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets." Because this rule is part of the principles and standards in the kingdom of God, only Christians could fulfill the golden rule. It is only the believers who truly love the Father who can truly love their neighbors as well (Matt. 22:39-40; cf. Deut. 6:4; Lev. 19:18). But since loving our neighbors is a difficult thing to do (even among believers, Jesus gave us three motivations to help us in doing just that.



How then are we to respond to the Golden Rule? As Christians, because this is God's command we should respond by loving His commandment (Psalm 119:97) and obeying it (Psalm 1:3, 119:34,44,55; cf. 1 Tim. 1:5). May the Lord give us His grace as we seek to show our love to our neighbors in concrete, practical ways!