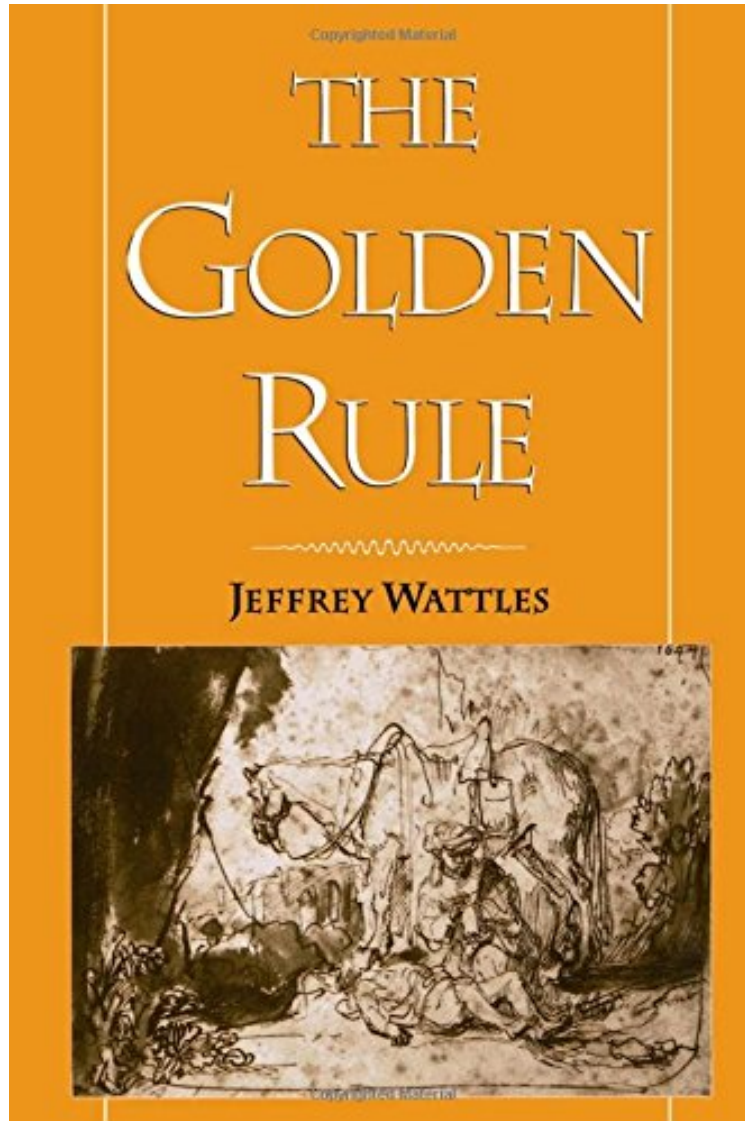


The Golden Rule

Jeffrey Wattles

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Jeffrey Wattles : The Golden Rule before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Golden Rule:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful book! The author has put it all togetherBy RetSciWonderful book! The author has put it all together: interpretations, religions, practices, philosophical history, social experiments, business models. If you are the least bit interested about any aspect of the Golden Rule this is the book for you!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Tough readBy Greg KopiaIn-depth discussion of the golden rule but written in a very dry academic style.....not easy reading but thorough2 of 3 people found the following

review helpful. Excellent treatise on the Golden Rule
By R. C. Torgerson
This book provides an in-depth coverage of how this key moral framework has functioned and been conceptualized throughout history and in various religious and cultural contexts. I especially enjoyed the breadth of discussion, and feel like the author did a particularly good job in representing how the rule functions within a Christian worldview. I highly recommend this book!

In an age plagued by selfishness, materialism, and violence, ethicists feel impelled to find a universal system of values. To arrive at such a "rule" requires that they struggle with a series of seemingly irreconcilable questions. First, are universal values possible in a pluralistic world, and how does one do justice to both human equality and to individual and cultural differences? How is one to understand the interface between religious moral teachings and the ethics of secular humanism? Finally, can such a system integrate moral intuition and moral reason? In the first scholarly book in English on the golden rule since the seventeenth century, Jeffrey Wattles demonstrates how a clear understanding of the psychological, philosophical, and religious ramifications of the rule can form the synthesis needed to solve these dilemmas. The golden rule, "do to others as you would have others do to you," is widely assumed to have a single meaning, shared by virtually all the world's religions. It strikes the average person as intuitively true, though most modern philosophers reject it or recast it in more rational form. Wattles surveys the history of the golden rule and its spectrum of meanings in diverse contexts, ranging from Confucius to Plato and Aristotle, from classical Jewish literature to the New Testament. He also considers medieval, Reformation, and modern theological and philosophical responses and objections to the rule, as well as how some early twentieth-century American leaders have tried to use the rule. Wattles draws these diverse interpretations into a synthesis that responds, at the psychological, philosophical, and religious levels, to the challenges to moral living in any given culture. Emotionally, the rule counsels consideration for others' feelings by asking that "you place yourself in their shoes." Intellectually, it activates moral thinking about what is fair. At the same time, it retains a spiritual appeal as "the principle of the practice of the family of God." Demonstrating how, despite its contentious history, this age-old ethical principle continues to be relevant in dealing with contemporary issues, *The Golden Rule* should interest students and scholars working in religious studies, philosophy and ethics, and psychology, as well as anyone looking for an alternative to postmodern cynicism and alienation.

"It reveals new depth in a topic that more high-flown approaches are likely to dismiss too quickly....richly woven..."--
Theological Studies
About the Author
As a student, Jeffrey Wattles abandoned religion in favor of analytic philosophy and Nietzsche's existentialism only to rediscover the life and teachings of Jesus. As Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religion at Kent State University, he teaches his students how to integrate scientific, philosophic, and religious perspectives.