

Personal Rule of Life Statements

Your personal rule of life is a holistic description of the Spirit-empowered rhythms and relationships that create, redeem, sustain and transform the life of God invites you to humbly fulfill for Christ's glory.

In order to begin to frame your rule of life (the focus of the first five chapters), the authors covered five very important issues: roles, gifts, desires, vision and mission. Each of these areas needs to be clarified as best as possible so that the general overview of your life is clearly understood and articulated as you move forward in crafting a personal rule of life. Before moving on part two, summarize your thoughts here. How is the Lord leading you in all five of these overarching areas of your personal life? Record your thoughts below:

My Roles:

“Your personal rule of life is discerned and framed within the context of your primary relationships and your spiritual community, and lived out in service to others” (p.21)

As I approach my mid-30's I have had the privilege of experiencing many different kinds of relationships and roles. Some have been quite joyous and some have contained conflict but all have been useful in shaping me to who I am today and taught me many things. In this current season, I find my 5 most important roles to be wife, daughter, aunt, sister, and student. Marriage has been one of those unique relationships that bring you the highest of highs but also the lowest of lows. I feel blessed to say that my husband and I have experienced no major conflicts during this season of quarantine but feel it is especially important to remain aligned as we consider steps for our future. I am entering a period of transition as a daughter where my parents are getting much older in age and the role of caregiver is switching. I want to do my best to honor them while we both navigate the changes in our interactions where they need me more but we all want to maintain our own independence. One of the great joys of my life was becoming an aunt to a wonderful niece (12) and nephew (10). I feel blessed to be close to them and want them to continue to feel like they can rely on me as they enter their teenage years soon especially in area of spiritual formation. I interpret the role of sister to of course include my biological siblings but also to my church community. I want to regularly keep up with my own spiritual life so as to support the community as well as myself. Being a student later in life has been a strange experience but I feel very lucky to have had the opportunity to change careers. I hope to be able to continue to grow my friendships at Nyack as well as to finish on a high note.

My Gifts:

“Your personal rule of life is discerned and framed through the discovery of your spiritual gifts, natural talents and temperament” (p.32)

I believe that my gifts center around encouraging and exhorting others. As mentioned elsewhere I like to bake and feed others as a way to not only nourish but to bring them joy. I am patient and loving and also like to teach. It is sometimes hard for me to talk about gifts because it can come off as not being humble but I thank God for the gifts and temperament He has given me and I hope to use it for His glory.

My Desires:

“Your personal rule of life is discerned and framed through the longings, yearnings and goals God has placed on your heart and mind that propel you forward with joy” (p.43)

The current social climate has brought about an overwhelming sense of division, confusion, uncertainty, and fear. As a result, many of my current desires center around more stability, unity, love, and kindness. I wish to create a stable home environment for my family, work that is fulfilling and to which I may be useful, and deeper relationships with friends and family. I want to be able to be a bridge for people to resources, people to other people, and people to God.

My Vision:

“Your personal rule of life is discerned and framed within the holistic, long-term vision and passion God had planted in your heart” (p.54)

I had read a quote when God first put it in my heart to consider a career change that “the place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet”. It was at that moment that I felt so viscerally that I should pursue a career in social work. My deep gladness has always been to see those around me reach their goals and potential and I felt it would be an honor to be able to walk alongside those in their pursuits. We also know that there is deep need in the world, both for God’s love and for temporal needs. My vision is for communities to thrive in all ways, spiritually, physically, mentally, and relationally - for reconciliation, rehabilitation, and restoration in all areas. I hope that social work allows me to chance to contribute to that end.

My Mission:

“Your personal rule of life is discerned and framed within the specific purpose(s) God invites you to fulfill in this season of life” (p.66)

I know that Micah 6:8 “And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God” is very popular with Christians and social workers but I feel that it perfectly describes the framework with which to describe my mission. These three requirements from the Lord are useful guideposts for all areas in my life - my interactions

with family and loved ones, my career, and how to interact with strangers. It embodies the spirit of compassion and wisdom and I hope to always have it be central to who I am and the decisions I make.