

Sairam Babu

Personal Rule of Life Statements

10/28/2022

### My Roles:

Among the many roles that I have, of my most important roles is my role as husband to Stephanie. In his letter to Ephesus, Paul tells us that the husband is the “head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church” (Ephesians 5:22). Therefore, my role as husband is to teach and lead my wife in both spiritual matters as well as earthly matters. It is one of the most important roles that I have because my relationship with my wife sets the tone and direction for my whole house. Our harmony or disharmony directly effects my ability to successfully fulfill all my other roles. Our relationship is relatively healthy and life giving; however, we have struggled to maintain emotional intimacy since having children. Since I have been told that this is very common for families with young children, I need to give this relationship special attention to address the gap in our emotional intimacy to maintain a healthy relationship. The next roles that I occupy is as father to Micah and Noah. Micah and Noah are both young boys who are beginning to look to me as their role model. They are taking cues from me on how to act and how to behave and it is my responsibility to “bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4) This verse bring a tremendous amount of weight to the role of fatherhood. Thankfully, both of my children spend a significant amount of time with me so I believe my relationship with both is relatively healthy and it is life giving. This role also requires my special attention to be careful of how I conduct myself and how I instruct them to be sure that I am living in a way that is Godly as well as caring for their spiritual well-being. Another one of my primary roles is to my closest friend, Mat. Mat and I have been friends for many years and we continue to encourage each other to mortify our flesh and pursue things of God. Mat and I and have a healthy relationship but it could use work since both of us are in very different stages of life. Despite the struggle sometimes, our relationship is life giving and joyful. The final primary role I have is with my supervisor Debbie. As her subordinate, I interact with her quite a bit. However, in comparison to all my other roles, this one is the least important. Our relationship is relatively healthy but goes back and forth between life giving and life draining depending on what’s going on at work.

### My Gifts:

After examining my heart, I believe that God has gifted me with the gifts of mercy. It has always been in my nature to show compassion for those who are in need. Despite my parents encouraging me to look to my own interests first, I have naturally felt more comfortable care for others. Another gift I think God has gifted me with is the gift of exhortation. This is a gift I have more recently discovered and I have matured in my faith. Reminding others of the truth of God’s Word is something that comes easier to me the more confident I grow in my faith in Christ. The final gift that God has given me is the gift of service. Again, this is a gift that I have discovered

as I mature in my faith. Along with my desire to be part of the body of believers, I also have a strong desire to serve the body of believers as well. Taking care of the practical needs of others to help alleviate some of the burden from other members is one of the primary ways I desire to demonstrate my love for God and His people. My temperament is introverted, relaxed and flexible which I think is ideal for serving others and showing mercy. While I do talk a lot with people who I'm comfortable with, I like to listen and ask questions before I speak and I don't draw attention to myself when it should be on others.

### My Desires:

When examining my heart, it is difficult to discern what my desires are because I value fulfilling the obligations that come with the roles I fill. However, there are several overarching themes that propel me forward with joy. The first desire is the comfort of not hurting. While I am relatively young, the amount of struggle and suffering that exists in the world is readily apparent to me. There are people who live all around me that struggle to just to get by either due to circumstances outside their control or just simple bad decisions. The thing that provides me the most joy is being able to relieve someone of their struggles and allow them to feel a sense of relief and security that they may not be used to feeling. The other desire I have is to create things either by cooking, baking or even home improvement projects. I enjoy taking raw materials and creating something out of it in order to benefit others. When I cook or bake, the intention behind it is to serve someone else aside from myself. Another of my desires is to live as a godly role model for my family. I take my role as a husband and father very seriously because my father did not take his role seriously enough. As a result, I want my family to feel that they can look to me for leadership and a sense of security.

### My Vision:

The most inviting part of God's grace is that by His grace we are adopted into His family. We were enemies and now are unconditionally part of His family. Even when He disciplines us, His love never relents and we never have to feel as if we will lose our standing before God. The biggest fear that I have about writing my own rule of life is that to do so requires me to intentionally examine my heart and put some of my desires and gifts into practice. When putting my gifts and desires into action, there increases the risk of doing so out of selfish desires. However, as I'm discovering my rule-of-life, I'm beginning to see patterns in how God has created me and to exercise my gifts to His Glory is what He made me for. I think God has called me to be a healing balm to those who are struggling that no one else wants to help. I think my steadfast commitment to others allows me to approach people that most would consider undesirable with the same love and respect as I do anyone else.

### 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)

The relationship that needs even great attention is my relationship to my church body. I prioritize my family and work but don't spend enough time investing in my church family. If I had the opportunity, I would eliminate my responsibilities at work. While my work is helping others, it is done primarily through the computer and I deeply desire to invest my time in personal relationships within my faith family. I would like to invest in my relationship with other Godly men in my church by intentionally spending time with them. I tend to put off fellowship for the sake of my other responsibilities. I believe my mission is to live a Godly life where I use my gifts and calling to engage in deep fellowship with the brethren and be an agent of mercy to those who are in pain.