

# PARTNER GATHERING

September 24, 2017

## Introduction

*If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup>that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.*

**2 Corinthians 5:16-20**

What does it mean to become a person who embraces the ministry of reconciliation?

What does that look like in the midst of our everyday, mundane lives?

And how do we not only participate in God's reconciliation of the world,

but how do we ourselves know and experience God's "bringing back together" of the pieces of our own life?

One thing we know is that growth and transformation is rarely, if ever, \_\_\_\_\_.

*The problem is not that we do not want to change,  
nor is the problem that we are not trying to change.*

*The problem is that we are not training.*

*We have never been taught a reliable pattern of transformation.*

James Bryant Smith - *A Good and Beautiful God*

**Think back on your life, think of a time when you learned a new skill.**

**Your Personal Mission:** *Who does God -- and who do I -- long for me to be?*

What are my greatest desires for my life? For my world?

What do I value?

What relationships matter most?

What direction does Scripture give me?

**FIRST DRAFT:**

## A Rule of Life

We all have patterns, rhythms and practices that make up and shape our lives. A rule of life helps us identify and ensure that we have the rhythms and practices we will need in order to become the people we long to be.

If the traditional, ancient term “rule” concerns you because it sounds legalistic or constrictive, consider that the word “rule” is connected to the Greek word for “trellis.” As we know, a trellis provides structure and framework that ultimately gives freedom.

*A rule of life is not meant to be restrictive, although it asks for genuine commitment.*

*It is meant to help us to establish a rhythm of daily living, a basic order within which new freedom can grow.*

Marjorie J. Thompson

*Trying hard can only accomplish so much.*

*You must arrange your life around certain practices that will enable you to do what you cannot do now by willpower alone.*

John Ortberg - *The Life You've Always Wanted*

Each of us \_\_\_\_\_ an unwritten rule of life.

- Reactional
- Unorganized
- Inconsistent

## Getting Started

*As embodied creatures, we are deeply affected by the structures and activities that fill our lives. It's a fairy tale to think otherwise.*

Michael Gulker - *The Colossian Forum*

1. A rule of life will be \_\_\_\_\_.

It will take into account who you are, where you are in life, and what God is inviting you to pay attention to.

2. A rule of life will be \_\_\_\_\_.

Over time, as circumstances and seasons change, so may your 'rule.'

3. A rule of life is not \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

4. A rule of life includes things that are spiritual, that is to say, it includes \_\_\_\_\_.

**Personal Mission:**

**Rhythms and Practices:**

	Physical	Emotional	Soul	Relational	Missional	Material
Daily						
Weekly						
Monthly						
Quarterly						
Annually						

