

A MOTHER'S RULE OF LIFE

Holly Pierlot

Intro

In her book, Holly asks the question what is meant by Christian perfection. Only after several years of journeying does she realize that *to seek perfection in this life is really to seek union with God through love.*

We could ask each of our directees the same question - what is meant by Christian perfection.... How can we facilitate our directees to make that journey from the erroneous idea of Christian perfection Holly originally had to relationship with Jesus? What does it mean to live this life of Grace?

Boiling Point

We see how beautifully the Holy Spirit is at work in each of our lives, and if we truly seek Him with an open heart He will guide us to Himself.

God wants from each of us: A desire to do His will, openness to Him, and knowledge of Him. In what way was He able to work through Holly's desire for intimacy with Him and to give her the order her heart craved?

Rule of Life

A Rule of Life must be lived as a response to the Call of God!

Holly makes the focus of her Rule: *to do all things with intentionality of love where Jesus has placed you.*

Is God present to you in a moment to moment basis? How can the Rule of Life facilitate you in living each moment with intentionality?

Do you see the value of the P's and how if they are not ordered correctly have the potential to cause great disorder and chaos in one's own life as well as their family life?

First P- Prayer

What does God desire from you in your prayer life?

What are things we do that frees our soul to prayer?

What are things we do that poisons our soul to prayer?

What are things we can do practically that will bring our soul to prayer in a deepened way?

Second P- Person

God has given each of us a great gift: the gift of ourselves. Why do you think so many people struggle with living the gift of self?

Give some examples of some of the tools you have found to be most beneficial in guiding your women – desires of the heart, POL, ANTS, boundaries, self-retreats, facts about their feelings, discernment of spirits, examination of consciousness, examen prayer etc (found in their the RCFP toolkit)

Third P- Partner (spouse)

In her book, Holly confessed she had a resistance to marriage because of the pain she experienced as a teenager when her parents separated.

Are there blockages in the wounds from your Family of Origin that you have knowingly/unknowingly carried into your marriages?

Is this a matter for counselling, or can this be addressed with self-knowledge thru prayer? How do you pray thru your experiences to heal your wounds?

How would I define the difference between “connecting” with my spouse, and relationship with my spouse?

It wasn't until Holly researched what the Church had to say on submission that she had the proper understanding to what St. Paul's words meant in Ephesians – it meant mutual love and mutual submission. True love is manifested in “giving” oneself to the other. Holly recognized that some of what she had earlier given up angrily because she was “supposed” to, she was now to give up freely out of love. The actions remained the same, but the attitude in the heart was coming from a place of love vs place of blind submission.

How does this change in mindset facilitate change in heart? What impact would this new thought reframe have on the relationship?

Forth P- Parent

On Holly's blog she says there seems to be insecurity among parents about how to raise their own children. Gordon Neufeld (developmental psychologist and author) would say parents have lost their parenting instincts. Holly suggests it is more than instincts, its forgetting the tools God has provided – grace, reason and spousal dialogue.

Women have a tendency to put P's in incorrect order – giving to their children too much- even to the detriment of the child and to the detriment of their spousal relationship.

Can I recall any of my own life experiences where I have inverted my P's?

How does using the tools God has given – grace, reason and spousal dialogue protect against such tendency?

Holly speaks of the importance of just “being” with our children.
Why is this type of relationship building important in a child's life?

How does both disorganization and being too organized interfere with “wasting time” with our kids?

Where does spontaneity fit in order of my day?

Can you see the value a Rule of Life would bring to imbalance?

Fifth P- Provider

The heart of the rule is your relationship with God – your ability to reach interior recollection, and live an interior life in the midst of fulfilling all your duties is the heart of the rule which is the most important part. The schedules/chore charts etc are all there to help get your mind de-cluttered, your duties fulfilled, so you can get to the deeper relationships instead of being consumed by the externals.

Putting in effort to de-clutter and organize and keep the home clean is an essential aspect of your vocation as a mother. It is tending your part of the Garden of Eden. What is the danger

when we reduce the care for our home to a schedule and chore chart as opposed to each being an integral member of our family? How does taking stock of each room in your house help you to organize and de-clutter what is the respective place for each thing? (This is my home and I want to be proud of it as an extension of myself.)

Why is it so important to have a budget and live within your means?

How did Holly's attitude of gratitude help her to stay on budget and to be happy to live within her means?

Holly learned something very significant about tithing: it's a tool, a means to detach our hearts from inordinate desires.

Tithing is not only a means of giving God what belongs to him and exercising self-control, but is actually a real channel of grace to enable us to be satisfied with having our needs met, with a few little wants thrown in as gifts from the goodness of God.

When we think about tithing, we think "What can we give?" but that is the wrong question, what we ought to ask ourselves is what of God's providence is entrusted to me to take care of those he has placed in my care?

How has tithing become God's way of changing my heart of what I cannot change on my own?