

Matthew 5:29-30 Page: 1474



Ask me anything (AMA) Text your questions to (608) 836-3236 throughout

Text your questions to (the Rule of Life series.

Even if we don't have AMA time on a Sunday, we'll include them in the podcast.



Memory Verse Whoever claims to abide in Him must walk as Jesus walked.

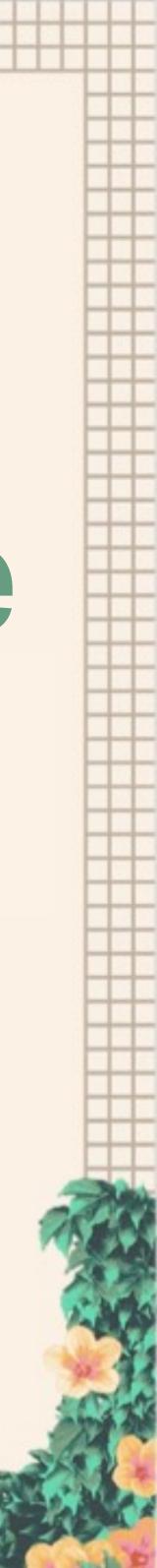
1 John 2:6



A pattern of life to focus and shape our practices around God's revealed will to live in His life and liberty and produce His fruit.

A practical plan to abide in Jesus by walking as He walked.

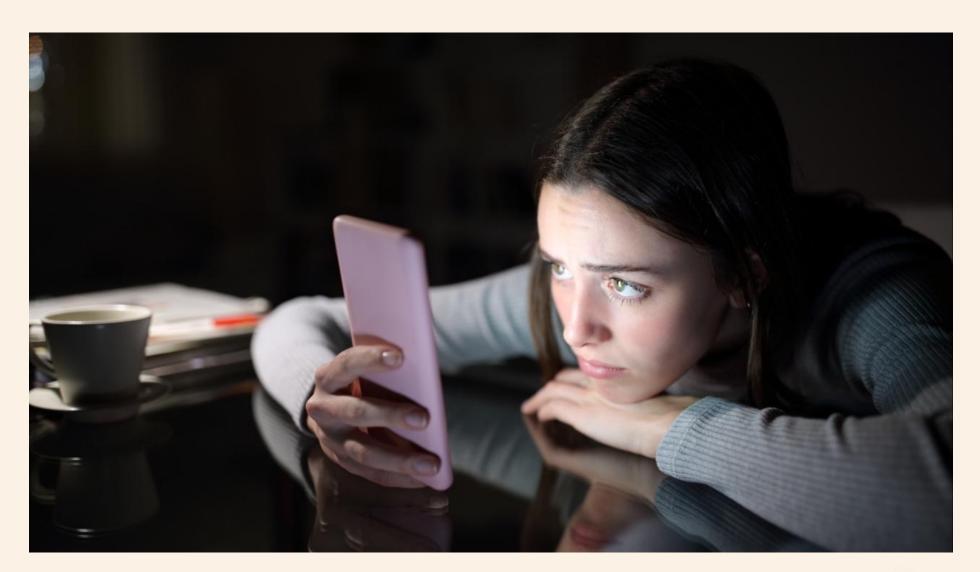
Rule of Life



We need to:

- 1. Write it down
- 2. Have objective measurement
- 3. Have a ritualized plan

In order to counter:



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2 Parts to walking as Jesus walked

<u>A Plan:</u> Rule of Life

'practicality' is good.(read: moderation)Best not to have eyes"bigger than our stomach."

<u>A Mentality:</u> Spiritual ferocity

'practicality' is ineffective.

Best to be focused, ferocious, and <u>narrowly</u> fanatical.





working piston (ram)

hydraulic fluid

Sector States

Don't focus on how weird this hand looks. Pay attention to the sermon.

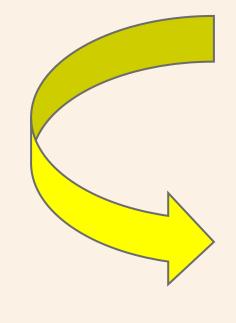


pump piston



2 Parts to walking as Jesus walked Don't reverse these

A Plan: Rule of Life



Best to be focused, ferocious, and narrowly fanatical.



<u>A Mentality:</u> Spiritual ferocity

Best not to have eyes "bigger than our stomach."



Jesus exhorts a ferocious mentality in pursuing his practical way.

walking the way of redemption. There is no good modesty in true devotion's place.

- Jesus was ferocious in his mentality of speaking and



Strap in...

2 Areas of spiritual ferocity 6 Key principles

Where does this apply?How do I do it?(We're just scratching the surface)



Spiritual brutality in what sense?

1. A ferocious mentality to follow Jesus, not worldliness.

This is true in first becoming Jesus' disciple. It is also true of being his disciple.



Jesus taught a ferocious faith Luke 9:52-62

- Jesus won't take wrath on Samaritans- he is not vindictive **BUT**:
- Are you willing to be homeless?
- Are you willing to reject all other important worldly responsibilities?
- Are you willing to seem indecent and uncaring even to your own family and culture?
- "No one who puts his hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God." vs. 62



Jesus taught a ferocious faith

Luke 14:15-35: Everyone's invited. But...

- "none of them will have a part of my banquet."
- "If anyone does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brother and sister, he cannot be my disciple."
- "... Even his own life... he must take up his cross and follow me..."
- war without knowing he can win?"
- "how can salt that isn't salty be good for anything?"

- "Who builds a tower without counting the cost...or goes to

- "any who doesn't give up everything cannot be my disciple."



Matthew 18:5-10 (AND: 5:26-30- about lust) Jesus loves the little Children... Enough to brutally kill you if you harm them.

- Better a millstone and sea than harm a "little one"
- Woe to the one that causes people to sin
- Cut off, gouge out and throw away even critical body parts to avoid sin
 - Your eye
 - Your hand
 - Your foot
- Better that, than be "cast into eternal fire"
- See you don't look down on one of these "little ones"

an harm a "little one" people to sin **w away even critical body p**a

o eternal fire" one of these "little ones"



Spiritual Ferocity and Brutality Mentality of full focus and intensity

Don't be lazy in earnestness, being fervent in spirit, serving the Lord Rom 12:11

Full surrender Having one master Counting the cost Undivided interests Living for the Kingdom Taking up your cross and following him Buried in Baptism and raised to new life Crucified with Christ, I no longer live but Christ lives in me. Judge for yourself if we should obey God or men. If I were trying to please men, I would no longer be a servant of Christ



Spiritual brutality in what sense?

2. A ferocious mentality to kill indwelling sin, not our enemy.



"Crucify the Flesh"

Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin;

in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 5:24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

to me, and I to the world.

- Romans 6:6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with
- Galatians 2:20 | have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith
- Galatians 6:14 May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified



Romans 8:13 NT (Nic Translation) you will live.

"...be killing sin or sin will be killing you...If it is your work to kill an adversary, if you stop striking before the other stops living, you have done but half your work." Mortification of Sin in the Believer

"For if according to the flesh you live, you are about to die. But if by the Spirit, the deeds of the body you kill,

John Owen



Keys to spiritual ferocity

1. Spiritual ferocity enables gentleness and peace

Only spiritual clarity and strength can master indwelling sin that destroys peace and foster the virtues of love.



Ferocity/Brutality

Active combat, wrestling and warmaking against the proper object of spiritual violence

Against: indwelling sin, pretensions against Christ, false Gospels, love of the World

Ephesians 6:13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

Tenacity/Perseverance

To hold firm, unmovable- yet unaggressive.

Against: devils, temptation, enemies, neighbors, governments, persecution, ideological combatants, the wicked

Starting and the



Spiritual Brutality: Against what?

Against...

Flesh, Sin, Deception, Fear, worldliness, distraction, worry, desire for other things...

We fight: desires of indwelling sin in us, pretensions against Christ in thought

So we can...

Love our enemies, neighbors, and brethren. To speak plainly and bravely To be gentle to all, in hope of their repentance.

Through persecution-loss of possession, suffering, and death.



Paradox of Spiritual Brutality

Only ferocious devotion and brutality against indwelling sin can create the strength of virtue and a true orientation toward others.

Virtues of stable love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control all require the uncommon strength of mastery over the sins, evil desires, selfishness, idolatry, ignorance and sensuality.



Keys to spiritual ferocity

2. Don't identify with indwelling sin

Not everything working on you or in you is part of you. Distinguishing between sin, Flesh, World and Devil allows you to hate the opposition to your growth without hating yourself or your neighbor.





you.

Nor is it what we need to survive or experience joy.

Fleshly mentalities and pretentious logics like: self-pity, inordinate worship, self-righteousness, false intellectualism, moral evasion...etc. (false operations of the mind that are not us)

The Flesh is not an integral part of



False loves: Lust instead of pleasure, selfish ambition, anger, vanity, sloth...

(bad habits of character that are false versions of the goods God has created)



Keys to spiritual ferocity

3. Align your feelings with God's judgments

Torn emotions and relational resentment undermines our motivation and divides our focus. Nothing kills courage like self-pity. By judging things as God judges them, we can have energetic emotions and an undivided heart toward him.



Lot's wife looks back longingly on the thing so bad that God destroyed it with fire from heaven.



Genesis 19:26

Lot's Wife becomes a pillar of salt when she looked back fleeing Sodom.

(Luke 17:23-37)



Psalm 139:19-24

bloodthirsty men!

your name.

²¹ Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD, and abhor those who rise up against you? anxious thoughts. ²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me,

and lead me in the way everlasting.



- If only you would slay the wicked, O God! Away from me, you
- ²⁰ They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse
- ²² I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies. ²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my



Keys to spiritual ferocity

4. Look for foxes in the absence of monsters.

After great sins and wounds are addressed, most of what harms our joy and progress are distractions that chew up the living shoots of our future.



A **few** sins **look like monsters**. Especially in others. **Most** forms of sin, flesh and worldliness **look like something cute**that destroy the tender shoots of real abiding and fruit.





Song of Songs 2:15 "Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom."



Keys to spiritual ferocity

5. Ferocity doesn't mean impatience.

Being ferocious doesn't mean going berserk. Ferocity is compatible with strategy. You can have ferocious discipline and brutal restraint. The point of a plan (Rule of Life) is to break progress down into doable pieces.



Intensity can be strategic and methodical

Philippians 1:25-26 ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you **for your progress and joy in the faith**, ²⁶ so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.



Keys to spiritual ferocity

6. Worship is the indispensable discipline

Worship is the unification of heart, soul, mind and strength in enjoying and professing the worth of God, thus attuning and strengthening our faculties to what is truly valuable, right, good, noble and praiseworthy- in God and for ourselves. Seeing and savoring the true God is the wellspring of spiritual devotion, ferocity, and brutality that pursue virtue and enable faith, hope and love. Spiritual brutality is rightly against inhibition in worshipping God.



The place of spiritual brutality and ferocity

- In coming to Jesus in the first place 1.
- 2. In continually rejecting the moderation of worldliness and retractions of fear
- 3. Practically: in embracing rejection, want, and diminishment 4. In putting to death Indwelling Sin/the Flesh
- 5. In taking progressive steps in Jesus' way with Joy
- 6. In loving God and seeking his Kingdom and Righteousness In loving the brothers, our neighbors and our enemies 7.



