

## My Rule of Life

Show me **your ways**, O LORD, teach me your **paths**; **guide** me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my Savior and my hope is in you all day long ...  
Remember not the sins of my youth and **my rebellious ways** ...  
Good and upright is the LORD; therefore, he instructs sinners in **his ways**.  
He **guides** the humble in what is right, and teaches them **his way**.  
**All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful**  
for those who keep the demands of his covenant ...  
Who then is the man who fears the LORD?  
He will instruct him in **the way chosen** for him (from Psalm 25).

Blessed are those **whose ways** are blameless, who walk according to the law of the LORD ...  
They do nothing wrong, they walk in **his ways** ...  
Oh that **my ways** were steadfast in obeying your decrees! (from Psalm 119)

## Jesus said, "I am the Way ..."

My life is in Christ, lived in  
the Light of Christ,  
the Peace of Christ,  
the Love of Christ,  
and the Life of Christ.

My Rule is connected to my ways, and ways have to do with walking, the way I walk, the ways in which I walk, the ways I take as I walk.

The four phrases capture or express what is at the heart for me: to be who I am in Christ, to be who Christ knows me to be. All the fullness of God dwells in Jesus Christ: the light, the peace, the love, the life are all in Him, they are His light, His peace, His love and His life.

What are the ways that enable me to live in the light of Christ ... the peace of Christ ... the love of Christ ... and the life of Christ? It is the purpose of this Rule to give articulation to those ways.

Stand at the crossroads and **look**; **ask** for the ancient **paths**, **ask** where **the good way** is and **walk in it**, and you shall find rest for your souls (Jeremiah 6:16).

## Who I Am in This Season of Finishing Well

As God graces, I desire my 60s and 70s to be a season of great fruitfulness. I want to finish well by bearing fruit in the lives of others.

I want to come alongside people in their journey and play a role in helping them discover who they are in Christ. I want them to better know who Jesus is, for the, to them, in them and through them. I want them to deeply own their true identity, which is in Christ, and to learn how to live more deeply into that identity and more fully from it.

I want to play my role in helping people inhabit Scripture more deeply, and to be inhabited more deeply by it; to develop deepening roots in a life of listening prayer, to grow in their capacity and desire to be attentive, receptive and responsive to all that the Father offers in Christ the Son through the indwelling Spirit.

I want the following Scriptures to characterize this next season of my life and service:

- **Pressing on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus has taken hold of me ... forgetting what lies behind and pressing on toward the goal to win the prize (Philippians 3:12-14).**
- **If you would be great, learn to be the servant of all (Mark 10:43).**
- **Unless a seed falls into the earth and dies, it remains but a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds (John 12:24).**
- **Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God, until I declare your power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come (Psalm 71:18).**

I want God to help me walk out the following core values and entrust them to others:

- **With you:** available, approachable, willing to be alongside people in attentive, compassionate and hopeful patience for the long haul; loyal, stable, constant
- **In Christ:** helping people live more fully into who they are in Christ: assisting them in a discovery—clarification—ownership—traction process
- **Attentiveness**—to the Lord, to them, and to how God is at work in, for and through them
- **Encouragement**—that God is with them, that change and growth are possible, and worth it
- **Small is beautiful:** appreciation for, enjoyment of and commitment to that which is “small,” unnoticed, unappreciated, unspectacular, doesn’t appear to have much going for it (the littlest, the least, the last and the lost)
- **Asking and Listening**
- **The power, wisdom and encouragement of Scripture**
- **Servanthood**

Overlapping with my core values, I understand God to have gifted me in the following ways:

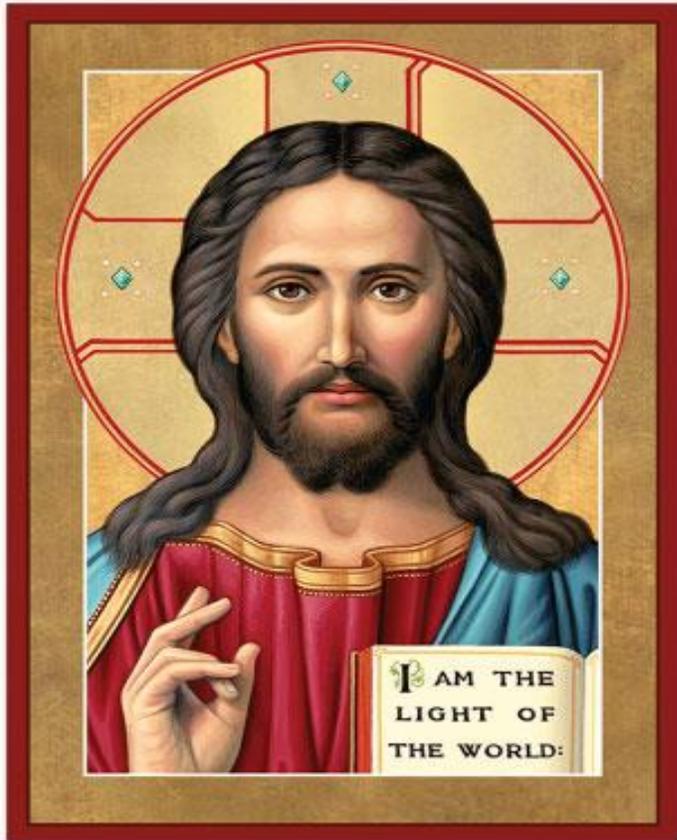
- Listening
- Patience
- Kindness/mercy
- Wisdom
- Pastoral gift
- Coaching and facilitation training with Leader Breakthru; add spiritual direction?
- Study
- Teaching and communication

The most important relationships in which I seek to do this include:

- My wife Kathy
- My children Katie, Amy, and Peter, and their spouses, Chot, Ben and Christine
- My grandchildren Matt, Anna and Noah
- The members of Covenant Church, and others I might serve in a pastoral role/capacity
- Younger people outside the congregation that I might coach/mentor
- Age peers who need help in finishing well
- Ministry peers/colleagues (broadly defined)

# THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

--an illuminated life--



For with you is the fountain of life; in your light, we see light ... In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it ... "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" ... For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ ... For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ... and find out what pleases the Lord... everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you" ... This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin (Psalm 36:9; John 1:4-5; John 8:12; 2 Cor 4:6; Eph 5:8-14; 1 John 1:5-7)

Journey Songs for the path of Light:

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

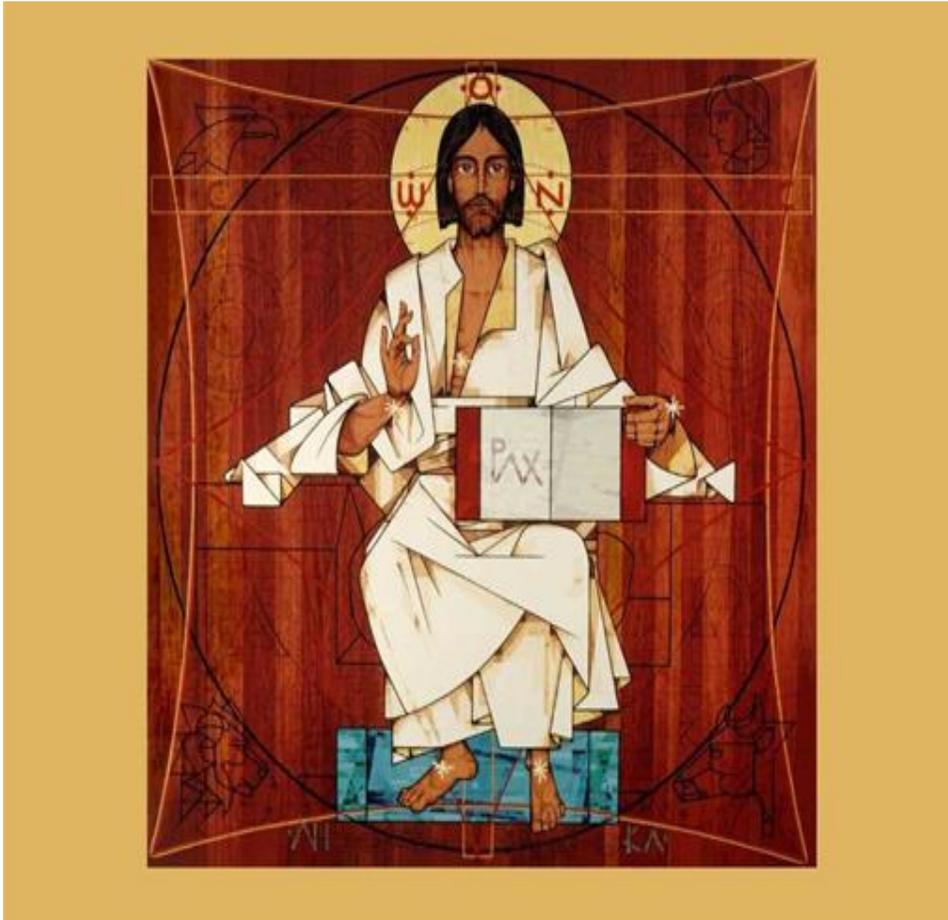
“Out of My Bondage, Sorrow and Night”

What are the ways that help me live a life fully illuminated by the light of Christ?

- Daily “slow” reading of Scripture
- Other spiritual reading
- Prayer of examen
- Regular soul-sharing/soul-friending fellowship: with my pastor, close friends, men’s group
- Regularly asking the Spirit for the gifts of
  - Clear conviction of my sin
  - Honest, full confession
  - True repentance
  - Genuine amendment of my life, all by the grace of the indwelling Spirit

# THE PEACE OF CHRIST

--a well-related life --



Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ ... “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you”... For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, ... therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification ... For he himself is our peace ... His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace ... Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace ... May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (Rom 1:7; John 14:1-2; Rom 14:17-20; Eph 2:14-18; Col 3:15-17; Heb 13:20-21)

Journey Songs for the path of Peace:

“Like a River Glorious is God’s Perfect Peace”

“Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”

“Be Still, My Soul”

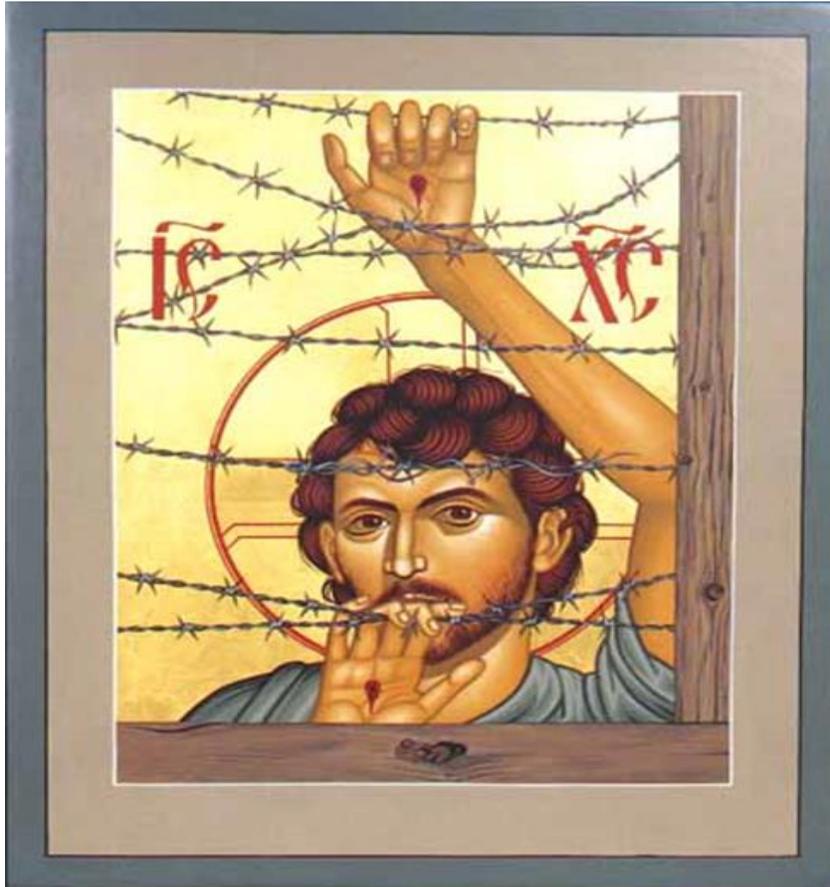
“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

What are the ways that help me live in the peace of Christ, well-related to God and neighbor?

- Silence
- Solitude
- Sabbath as a way of life, including retreats
- 20m/day in silent/centering/contemplative/listening prayer

# THE LOVE OF CHRIST

--a sustained and motivated life --



Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments" ... "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" ... "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you ... Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails ... For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that

counts is faith expressing itself through love ... And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity ... And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge ... God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother. (Matt 22:37-40; John 13:34-35; John 15:9-17; 1 Cor 13:4-13; Gal 5:6; Col 3:14; Eph 3:14-19; 1 John 4:7-21)

Journey Songs for the path of Love:

“O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus”

“Jesus, I am Resting, Resting”

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”

What are the ways that keep me living a life that is sustained and motivated by the love of Christ?

- Asking and listening
- Worship (esp. singing)
- Praying others into the light, peace, love and life of Christ

# THE LIFE OF CHRIST

--a whole and holy life--



But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well ... "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?" ... In him was life, and that life was the light of men ... "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day" ... I 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 in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me ... (Matt 6:25-33; Luke 9:23-26; John 1:4; John 6:35-40; Gal 2:20; )

Journey Song for the path of Love:

“The Tree of Life/Christ the Apple Tree”

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

“He Leadeth Me”

What are the ways that help me live a whole and holy life in the life of Christ?

- Healthy practices, “the numbers” (10,000 steps/day, weight, cholesterol, etc.)
- Journaling, tracking the movements of Christ’s life in and through my life
- Servanthood
- Pursuing my work with Leader Breakthru and coaching

