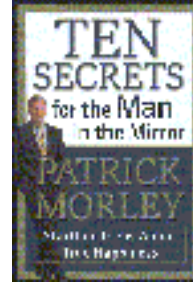


Ten Secrets for the Man in the Mirror

Startling Ideas About True Happiness

By Patrick Morley

1. *Lordship – Who’s in charge?*
2. *Balance – What are the priorities?*
3. *Vocation – How does your career fit in?*
4. *Suffering – How can this add to my happiness?!*
5. *Discipleship – Knowing God well enough to be joyful.*
6. *Stewardship – What are my responsibilities?*
7. *Witnessing – Why is this essential?*
8. *Service – What it is, and what it isn’t.*
9. *Humor – How not to take yourself too seriously.*
10. *Love – What we cannot live without: how to give it and receive it.*



Notes from a men’s small group discussion of this book by Patrick Morley.

Stuart L. Brogden, August, 2001

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Week #1

1. *Lordship* – Jesus Christ is the Lord of all men at all times in all places, whether they acknowledge it or not. We belong to Jesus. He is our “owner.” He is our “benefactor.” This is an idea that may take ten or twenty years to sink in.

“He will never give up on us – even when we think He isn’t Lord.”

Read: Colossians 1:16-20, Romans 14:8, Deuteronomy 4:35-40, 1 Kings 18:17-39, Daniel 4:28-37, James 4:13-15, 1 Corinthians 15:20-28, Matthew 28:18.

2. *Balance* – We can find what we’re looking for by striking a right balance between the four universal purposes God has for all men: The Great Commandment, the New Commandment, the Cultural Mandate, and the Great Commission. It is the secret to leading a happy, busy, and balanced life.

“Four universal purposes:

1. The Great Commandment (Matthew 22:36-38) – loving God
2. The New Commandment (John 13:34) – loving others
3. The Cultural Mandate (Genesis 1:28) – tending to our work and family
4. The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) – serving God by serving others through evangelism, discipleship, and meeting the needs of the poor”

Read: Philippians 14:4-5, Ephesians 4:11-16, Luke 10:38-42, Mark 8:34-38, Matthew 22:21, Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

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Week #2

3. *Vocation* – A man who is unhappy in his work will find it difficult to be happy anywhere. For that reason, you should search for that occupation which, once discovered, you could be happy doing nothing else. At the same time, each of us must also remember that no amount of success at work can adequately compensate for failure at home.

Read Proverbs 3:5-6. "Implicit in the idea of not leaning 'on your own understanding' is that you have already gained an understanding on which you are now told not to rely! Trusting God isn't flying blind."

Read: 1 Corinthians 3:6-9, Galatians 1:10, Ephesians 6:5-9, Ecclesiastes 3:13, and Ecclesiastes 5:18-19

4. *Suffering* – Your sufferings are not merely setbacks. They are also springboards to the crucial task of knowing God well enough that you can trust Him.

Old Indian proverb - "If the mountain was smooth, you couldn't climb it."

Read: Acts 5:41, Acts 14:22, Philippians 1:29, 1 Peter 4:12-16, Psalms 119:71, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, Luke 22:31-32

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5. Discipleship – Most of us have said, “I knew about God, but I didn’t know God.” Perhaps a greater problem today is that men do know God, but they don’t know about Him. To know God is to be a Christian. To know about God, however, is what it means to become a disciple.

“Most men only know enough about God to be disappointed with Him.”

A disciple is:

1. Called – Mark 1:17, Mark 3:13-14, Acts 4:13, Isaiah 6:8
2. Equipped – 2 Timothy 3:16-17. “If you’ve ever had braces attached to your teeth, you know that after a brief adjustment period you don’t notice them. Yet they’re always there, applying steady, constant pressure. And, over a long period of time, they change the location of your teeth. That’s a lot like how we are equipped to live like Christ.”
3. Sent – 2 Timothy 3:16-17, John 17:18.

Discipleship is obedience.

6. Stewardship – Stewardship is a total way of looking at life, which understands that everything comes from God, belongs to God, and is to be used for the glory of God. A steward will come to believe that God has a “plan” for his life – that God has ordained all his days before one of them came to pass, that God determines his times and even the exact places where he lives. (Psalms 139:16, Acts 17:26)

What is our responsibility to our sovereign Lord?

Read: Proverbs 16:9, Proverbs 21:31, Psalms 127:1, Psalms 44:6, Colossians 1:29, 1 Corinthians 3:6, Nehemiah 4:9

Stewards “Know”	Non-Stewards “Think”
I Am a Manager	I am the owner
To be responsible is to be faithful	To be responsible I need control
I will be happy with what I get	I will be happy if I get what I want
Life is a process	All that counts is how it ends
I will be happy in the present	I need to worry about the future
My motive is gratitude	My motive is duty
God produces fruit through me	I must produce fruit to please God

“Happiness is the by-product of submitting to the process of stewardship. ... A steward knows he has enough time to complete every task God intends him to do.”

“Three rules regarding money and possessions:

1. Don’t own things you do not use on a regular basis.
2. Don’t own things just because you can.
3. The more you give away, the happier you will be.”

Prioritize family, rest and health – not just money. Read; Job 1:1-5, 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, Ephesians 5:21-28, Colossians 3:18-24, 1 Timothy 5:8, James 2:14-16

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7. Witnessing – The single most important need people have is to know Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. At the same time, few things in life are more nerve-racking than sharing our faith in Jesus Christ. Ironically, many men are dying to know what we are dying not to tell them. A true believer, however, will overcome these fears and feel a sense of urgency and responsibility to help men find faith. The happiest men in the world are witnessing Christians.

1. The single most important need people have is to know Jesus Christ personally. Acts 4:12
2. A Christian should feel a certain sense of urgency to tell the good story. Acts 4:19-20
3. People will only listen to someone they trust. Colossians 4:5-6
4. People will consider us credible on the basis of their values, not ours. 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12
5. To speak well we must prepare in advance. 1 Peter 3:15

What holds us back?

1. We don't care about people we don't know. John 4:1-29
2. We won't share the good news if we have not been long enough and deep enough in the presence of Jesus. Strongholds of sin in our heart will keep our heart from burning with love for those who need His grace. Jonah 1:1-3 & 3:10-4:1

8. Service – A servant is someone who goes where Jesus would go to do what Jesus would do. Where would Jesus go? What would Jesus do? Unless and until we serve Him as an expression of gratitude our lives will have no enduring meaning. We will not be happy.

“It is by taking the narrow road of giving that we end up on the broad road of receiving.”

“A lot of us are disappointed with the way our lives seem to be turning out. For some of us, we've forgotten why we're here, and that's why we are disappointed. We took our eyes off the road. We've run ourselves into a ditch.”

The New Testament reveals that Jesus engaged in three primary activities:

1. He relieved human suffering.
2. He taught people about the kingdom of God.
3. He trained disciples to do what He did.

Who needs your service for Christ? Consider the kinds of people Jesus hung out with:

1. Religious people, like Nicodemus (John 3)
2. Secular people, like Zacchaeus (Luke 19)
3. Broken people, like Bartimaeus (Mark 10)

Read John 15:10-11 and John 12:26. Some ministry opportunities are organized, most simply happen. A man needs spiritual sight to see these opportunities. Read Luke 24:13-32 and 1 Corinthians 13:12.

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9. Humor – Humor is how God tickles a world that takes itself too seriously. The world boils and roils inside a pressure cooker; humor trips the release valve. Humor can build a bridge, or tear down a wall. It is a mirror that lets you see yourself as others do – and so to laugh a bit.

“Two things heal especially – a tear and a good laugh.”

“Take a mental snap-snot of how your insides feel when you laugh. That’s a foretaste of the perpetual joy of heaven.”

Bumper stickers?

Baptists: Smile, God loves you.

Presbyterians: Smile, God may love you.

Catholics: Smile, God loves you. Keep up the good work.

Read: Ecclesiastes 3:1-3, Ephesians 5:4, Ecclesiastes 2:2, Proverbs 17:22, Proverbs 15:13, Proverbs 15:15, Proverbs 15:30.

10. Love – At the end of the day, we are all weak people who need other weak people to love us, not so much for what we can become – for our potential – but because of who we are right now, and in spite of what we have done or failed to do. If someone will love us like this, we will experience the joy of the Lord.

“Here is a truth that is beyond dispute: Men are either *fulfilled, frustrated, or failing* in love.”

One of the most common mistakes a man can make in expressing his love for another person is to love that person the way he wants to be loved himself. Love seeks out what pleases the other and loves her in that fashion. Read 1 Corinthians 13:5.

“The starting point for any meaningful discussion about love is Jesus Christ.” Read 1 John 4:9-10. We need three loves:

The love of God, which is: Compassionate – Luke 5:16; Sacrificial – Philippians 2:7-8; Gracious – Colossians 2:13-14; Unconditional – 1 John 1:10.

To be in Christ – “is to admit that you are not good enough, that you cannot perform, that because of sin’s grip on your life you are a loser - ... that you need a Savior”

To love others – 1 John 4:11, John 13:34, John 15:12-13, 1 Peter 2:17

Someone to love you as you are – “There is not one verse in the Bible which suggests that we seek the love of others! ... Rather, the Bible shows us how to become the kind of person who will, as a by-product of being a loving person who is loved by Jesus, draw others to us.”

“*You must find someone to love you*” – Neurotica 7:11, the world’s message.