

June 2018

From the Desk of Rev. Chuck

Unity Church of Bakersfield

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Dear Friends,

KD, Michelle, and my grandson, Remy will be in my hometown of Ransomville, New York for my mother's graveside service at our family plot on Saturday, June 9th. Many family members and old friends will be there. Later we will have a celebration of life reception at a local restaurant owned by one of my high school friends.

Communicating back and forth with several family and friends it occurred to me how much our lives have changed and what we envisioned for ourselves, when we were teens, isn't what we ended up being or doing. A strange thing happened on the way to adulthood. Somewhere along that path we encountered, what I call "the age of accountability."

I recall the story that is told in Luke about Jesus and the moment when he entered his "age of accountability." His parents had taken him to Jerusalem for high holy days and when they left to head home, Jesus was nowhere to be found. When they went back to find him, they found him talking to the men of the Temple. When they asked what he was doing, he replied, "I am about my father's business."

We too, are about our father's business in that we been given the power and ability to co-create with God. Each of us enters into our age of accountability to be about our father's business at different stages of our lives. Some as young as Jesus and others later on in life. It matters not when that time comes, but what we do with that time when it does come.

Over the years, I have had many moments that caused me to change my plans as I practiced being about my father's business while embracing my age of accountability. And understanding the rules that govern me being human has been a real help. So I share those rules from Cherie Carter-Scott's book, [If Life is a Game, These are the Rules](#) with you.

"1. YOU WILL RECEIVE A BODY.

You may like it or hate it, but it will be yours for the entire period of this time around.

2. YOU WILL LEARN LESSONS.

You are enrolled in a full-time informal school called Life. Each day in this school you will have the opportunity to learn lessons. You may like the lessons or think them irrelevant and stupid.

3. THERE ARE NO MISTAKES, ONLY LESSONS.

Growth is a process of trial and error: Experimentation. The "failed" experiments are as much a part of the process as the experiment that ultimately "works."

4. A LESSON IS REPEATED UNTIL LEARNED.

A lesson will be presented to you in various forms until you have learned it. When you have learned it, you can then go on to the next lesson.

5. LEARNING LESSONS DOES NOT END.

There is no part of life that does not contain its lessons. If you are alive, there are lessons to be learned.

6. "THERE" IS NO BETTER "HERE."

When your "there" has become a "here," you will simply obtain another "there" that will again look better than "here."

7. OTHERS ARE MERELY MIRRORS OF YOU.

You cannot love or hate something about another person unless it reflects something you love or hate about yourself.

8. WHAT YOU MAKE YOUR LIFE IS UP TO YOU.

You have all the tools and resources you need. What you do with them is up to you. The choice is yours.

9. YOUR ANSWERS LIE INSIDE YOU.

The answer to Life's questions lie inside you. All you need to do is look, listen and trust.

10. YOU WILL FORGET ALL THIS."

However, Spirit is always available to remind you, guide you, inspire you, when you forget.