

Character Matters: *Orderliness*

Arranging myself & my surroundings based on my life purpose

Understanding the Order of Things

In our “stuff”-driven society, getting organized is a big business. Do a Google search on “home organization” and you’ll come up with over 4 hundred million links to sites with everything from housecleaning tips to filing cabinets to monogrammed dirty clothes baskets to professional organization consultants.

Human beings seem to have an innate urge to put things in order. We like to make outlines, draw blueprints, structure paragraphs, research family trees, draft rules, and even divide our fellow men and women into classes. Our universe was created with order and harmony, and the people within it will never be long satisfied with utter chaos. “A place for everything and everything in its place” seems to be drilled into our collective subconscious.

That doesn’t mean that we always achieve the perfect order for which we yearn. Far from it! Even in the sphere of our own homes, few of us could claim to be satisfied with our current level of organization. On a grander scale, our attempts to put nature and society in perfect order always seem to be frustrated by the unpredictable and unknown.

Order is an issue of authority. Be honest: haven’t you ever felt that if only you could be supreme dictator for a few days, you could set the world straight? The problem is that every one of the billions of people populating this earth feels the same way, and our plans for “putting things right” don’t match up. With six billion competing would-be dictators, it’s no wonder the world remains a mess!

So what’s the solution? How can we ever achieve the perfect order for which we all long? The answer

is God. He alone is fit to assume the throne of the universe, and He alone is capable of putting all to rights. Only when we recognize Him as our rightful Ruler and bow to His authority will we begin to experience the order and purpose He intends for our lives. And we can trust that in His timing, He will accomplish the order and purpose He has had for His universe since before the beginning of time.



That leads us back home. Most of us don’t rule nations or command armies, but God has delegated to us certain areas of jurisdiction. And just as He is a God of order, He intends for us to rule our spheres of authority with a deliberate, intentional view toward

accomplishing the purposes for which they were designed.

Are you a parent? Have you organized your children’s training in a way designed to lead them to their purpose in life?

Are you an employer or manager? Have you structured your policies and procedures in order to best accomplish the goals you intend to achieve?

Do you own a home? Have you organized your belongings with intentionality, seeking to maximize each space for the purpose for which it was designed?

Often we think of orderliness as a means to an easier, less stressful life, but we should think of it in higher terms than that. It is a way to fulfill our role as God’s servants on this earth.

Orderliness matters - because it is the key to fulfilling the purpose for which we were created.

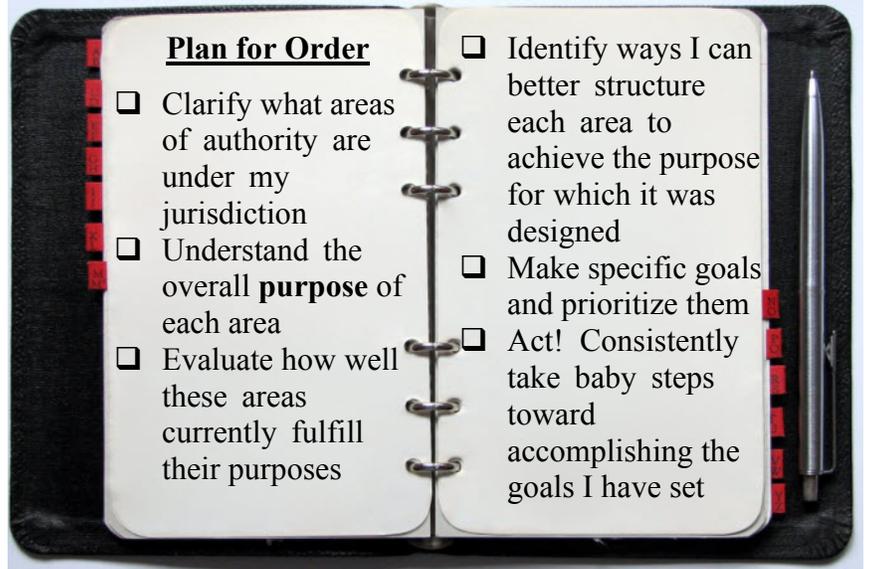
Down to the Nitty-Gritty

So now we've discussed the underlying philosophy behind orderliness. It's time to put it into action. But where to begin? How exactly do we make this work? The "Plan for Order" at right can be customized for any area in your life that needs order, but for now, let's start with the kitchen.

The first question to ask is always, "Whose jurisdiction is this?" So, for the kitchen, you might ask yourself, "Do I do most of the cooking? Do I need to consult with my spouse or roommate?"

Ask, "What is the purpose of this space?" That might seem obvious, but go ahead and write down the main objectives that this room needs to accomplish. Does your kitchen have an eating area? Do you usually cook gourmet-style or more tv-dinner fare? Determine the purpose of each drawer & cabinet before attempting to organize it.

How well is the space available being utilized to fulfill its purpose? If you're storing toys, tools, or office supplies in a kitchen cabinet, it might be time to relocate them. Mentally draw an ideal layout that will serve your purposes best. Be realistic!



Now, make a list. What do you need to do or get to make your ideal a reality? Perhaps you should discard old plastic cups or storage containers. Maybe you need drawer organizers or new shelves. Which things can be done easily or are extremely important, and which are larger projects that can wait a while?

Finally, spring into action! All the plans in the world are

useless if your list sits idle in the junk drawer. Take the first step. Then keep taking steps, one day at a time.

Kitchen Sink Drama
by [stevacek](#)



Orderliness
with

Flexibility

Patience

Thriftiness

Resourcefulness

- **Flexibility** is "willingness to change plans or ideas according to the direction of my authorities." Orderliness plans realistically, recognizing God's authority to overrule our "best-laid plans."

- **Patience** is "accepting a difficult situation without

giving a deadline to remove it." Orderliness puts people ahead of projects and does not become angry with those who frustrate our organizational efforts.

- **Thriftiness** is "allowing myself and others to spend only what is necessary." Orderliness avoids

chaos and clutter by not purchasing unnecessary items.

- **Resourcefulness** is "finding practical uses for that which others would overlook or discard." Orderliness guards against waste by making full use of what it already has.