

WHAT SORT OF AN INFLUENCE WILL YOU BE?

“THE CHURCH IS NOT HERE TO EXIST IN THE COMMUNITY BUT RATHER TO BRING CHANGE THROUGH POSITIVE INFLUENCE.” Tony Mckeown Get a life -2001 vol 4

Matt 28:18-20 *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” Amen.*

Matt 5:13 *“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavour, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.”*

By modest estimate, more than a quarter of the entire population of the United States have professed an evangelical conversion experience. William Iverson wryly observes that “A pound of meat would surely be affected by a quarter pound of salt. If this is real Christianity, the ‘salt of the earth’, where is the effect of which Jesus spoke?”
Christianity Today, June 6, 1980, p.33

Prov 22:6 *Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it*

A careful man I want to be,
A little fellow follows me;
I do not dare to go astray
For fear he'll go the self same way.
I cannot once escape his eyes,
Whatever he sees me do he tries
Like ME he says he's going to be
This little chap who follows me.
I must remember as I go
Through summer suns and winter snows,
I am building for the years to be
That little chap who follows me.

Prov 13:20 *He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed.*

Sociologists tell us that even the most introverted individual will influence ten thousand other people during his or her lifetime!

- A) **Influence = Impact = Change = Outcome**
Positive Influence = Positive Impact = Positive Change = Positive Outcome
Negative Influence = Negative Impact = Negative Change = Negative Victory
- B) “There have been meetings of only a moment which have left impressions, for life, for eternity. No one can understand that mysterious thing we call influence... yet... every one of us continually exerts influence, either to heal, to bless, to leave marks of beauty; or to wound, to hurt, to poison, to stain their lives.”
(J. R. Miller, **The Building of Character** - New Jersey: AMG Publishers 1975)

“The question is not whether we influence or not, the question is what type of influence shall we be?”

The position of influence can change dramatically during the day:

- 1) Child under parents influence, then becomes the influence
- 2) Parent who sets the influence goes to work to be influenced by someone else.

That means at nearly any given time we will either be leading or following.

Matt 8:9-10 *“For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, “Go”, and he goes; and to another “Come”, and he comes; and to my servant, “Do this”, and he does it”. When Jesus heard it, He marvelled, and said to those who followed: “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!”*

***Jesus was A Man under the Influence of Others**

- 1) Under the influence of the Father

John 12:50 *“And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told me, so I speak”*

- 2) Under the influence of John the Baptist

Mark 1:9-10 *it came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptised by John in the Jordan. And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove.*

- 3) Jesus A Man With Influence over Others

Matt 4:19 *Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men”*

Matt 28:18-20 *18 - And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. 19 - Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit 20 - teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age”. Amen.*

TEN CREATIVE CONFESSIONS FOR A POSITIVE INFLUENCE

1. I CHOOSE MY FRIENDS WISELY:

- A. Look at the fruit, not the trunk size
- B. Look at the fruit, not the species of tree!
- C. Don't wait for quality relationships, pursue them (*Prov 18:24 A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother*)
- D. Be nice to everyone till you've made your first million, after that they will be nice to you!

2. I FEED MY MIND WISELY:

- A. Tapes, books, videos. (Listen when moving, write when seated, file for future)
- B. **Information** must be coupled with **application** for **transformation**
- C. Instant application - teach if you can. **We are not a reservoir we are a river**

3. I MEDITATE ON THE WORD OF GOD ON A DAILY BASIS

Josh 1:8 *“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall Meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success”.*

Meditation means to ruminate (as a cow does with its food) to get the real value of its efforts, its rumen breaks down the food and is then released into blood stream.

4. I AM UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF A POSITIVE CORPORATE ANOINTING

- A. There is a big difference between the personal and corporate anointing (e.g. Hills)
- B. Satan misunderstood the power of the corporate anointing
- C. The disciples had to receive their own anointing after Jesus departed
- D. Elisha understood it. David understood it.
- E. Choose your Church wisely.

F. When you see geese heading south for the winter flying along in a “V” formation, You may be interested in knowing that science has discovered why they fly that way. Research has revealed that as each bird flaps its wings, it creates uplift for the bird immediately behind it. By flying a “V” formation, the whole flock adds at least 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

a) People who share a common direction and sense of community get where they are going more quickly and easily because they are travelling on one another’s thrust.

Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone. It quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front.

b) If we as people have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation and so will those who are headed the same way we are.

When the lead goose gets tired, he rotates back in the “V” and another goose flies the point.

c) It pays to take turns doing hard and mundane jobs

These geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up the speed.

d) What do we say when we honk from behind?

And finally, when a goose gets sick or is wounded by gunfire, two other geese “fall out of formation” and follows it down to help and protect it. They stay with the goose until it’s either able to fly again or dead, and they launch out on their own or with another formation to catch up with the group.

e) If we have the sense of a goose, we will stand by each other like that

5. I CHOOSE MY WORDS CAREFULLY, AND SPEAK WORDS OF WISDOM AND OF LIFE:

- A. Your words influence more than your actions! **Prov 18:21** *Death and life are in The power of the tongue and those who love it will eat its fruit.*

- B. Five guideposts have governed my life: To thank God for every adverse event; to hold a bolt of lightning in my hand rather than to speak against a brother; to pay any price in order to be obedient to the Holy Spirit; to administer in love and never to govern in anger; to pay three compliments every day. (R Stanley Tam)

1Thess 5:18 *In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

Phil 4:8 *Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy...meditate on these things.*

2John 1:6 *This is love that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.*

6. I ADMIT WHEN I AM WRONG, AND RECTIFY SITUATIONS QUICKLY AND GRACIOUSLY:

- A. Watch what you put on paper, in text or email, it lasts far longer than your temper
B. It doesn't hurt to say you're sorry even when you are right!!

7. I WILL BE SUCCESSFUL BY HELPING OTHERS TO BE SUCCESSFUL

- A. There is no success without successors.
B. As one succeeds, so do I

8. I AM CONTENT BUT NEVER SATISFIED THEREFORE I ALWAYS PUSH FOR MORE EXCELLENCE

1 Timothy 6:6 *"But godliness with contentment is great gain".*

- A. We never arrive while we're alive! The journey is also the destination

9. I PURSUE AND STAY FOCUSED ON MY GOD GIVEN DESTINY

- A. Paul this one thing I do, not the thirty things I attempt ("this one thing" series).

Phil 3:13 *"Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead."*

10. SUCCESS IS A LIFETIME EVENT NOT A FLEETING MOMENT, THEREFORE I WILL LIVE WITH INTEGRITY UNTIL I FINISH THE COURSE

- A. Reputation is what people say, Integrity is what God says.
B. Use the power of revelation to destroy the power of sin in your life.

2Tim 4:7 *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith.*