

The Importance Of Influence

There is an old adage which says, "Actions speak louder than words." And that is the truth. We call it "influence." The power of one to sway other people along certain courses of action because of his wealth, position, or ability. Influence, either for good or evil, follows in the wake of one's actions and not of what one says he will do or not do. One of the first places I fully came to be aware of this power was in the parent-child relationship. I would see parents warning their children not to smoke. In between their admonitions that smoking caused halitosis, hacking coughs, and lung cancer would be a puff from a cigarette and this feeble rebuke, "Now, don't do as I do but do as I tell you to do." Given man's propensity toward evil, I knew how far that advice went for the betterment of mankind.

What makes influence such a powerful tool is the fact that each of us possess it. There are people who watch us, who admire something about us, who imitate our actions. If put to its proper use, influence can be a great means of leading someone to obey Christ. Listen to Jesus, "For I have given you an example, that ye also should do as I have done to you" (Jno. 13:15). Jesus spoke of actions. Paul wrote, "Be ye imitators of me, even as I also am of Christ" (1 Cor. 11:1). Another apostle of Christ wrote of deeds, Peter said, "For hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that ye should follow His steps" (1 Pet. 2:21). To follow anyone's footsteps, we must walk. The word "example" as used by Peter literally means "an under-writing." It refers to teaching children the alphabet. A copy of the letters of the alphabet would be distributed to each child. They would write underneath the example of the letter as it should be drawn, trying to reproduce it as closely as possible. We must pattern our lives after Jesus. We must do our best to live as He lived, "to be holy as He is holy." Thus, "by their fruits ye shall know them."

Influence Begins With The Heart: -- Only as we keep the seat of our intellect, emotions, and will unmixed with evil, can we expect to wield the silent power of influence for good. Solomon wrote, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; For out of it are the issues of life" (Prov. 4:23). In the ASV, "with all diligence" is footnoted "above all that thou guardest." We must see the necessity of keeping our heart right with God. We must see the danger in letting our thoughts aimlessly wander from sin to sin, of toying with its pleasures in our mind, of calculating our pursuit of it. We must heed the Lord, who was tempted like we are tempted, yet without sin, for He said, "For from within, out of the heart of men, evil thoughts proceed, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, covetings, wickednesses, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, railing, pride, foolishness: all these evil things proceed from within and defile the man" (Mk. 7:21-23).

Influence Is The Result Of Doing Good: -- If influence is sought for its own sake, then it is a matter of selfish pride and not an attempt to glorify God. The Pharisees were guilty of seeking their own glory above the glory of the Father. They loved to spread their influence for the sake of spreading their influence (cf. Matt. 6:1-5). Jesus said, "Ye are the salt of the earth...Ye are the light of the world...so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 5:13,14,16). The reason we do good works and influence others to do good works is not "to be seen of men." Rather, that being seen, others may understand that we serve God to glorify Him. We are the light of the world. We must penetrate the evil world and show forth the excellencies of Christ as surely as the light of a burning star pierces the darkness of night. We must preserve from corruption by giving life to people who are spiritually dying as surely as salt gives protection to meat that would decay and become rancid without it (cf. Phil. 2:15,16).

And above all things we must be steadfast, unmovable, constant in our endeavor to serve God. We cannot fellowship evil and expect our influence to be good. We must not fraternize the enemy. Our teachings and deeds must be consistent. Surely we can see this in the life of Jesus. "He that is not with Me is against Me; and he that gathereth not with Me scattereth abroad" (Matt. 12:30).

(Copied, Author Unknown)

PUZZLE FOR THE WEEK

This puzzle is taken from Hebrews 12:1-5

J	U	D	Q	I	S	S	G	X	P	W	E	F	E	T
O	X	Z	P	G	Z	C	D	I	A	Y	I	C	M	H
Y	E	X	Y	M	M	D	F	N	T	N	A	H	U	G
S	R	E	N	N	I	S	S	L	I	R	L	U	E	I
W	I	T	N	E	S	S	E	S	E	M	A	H	S	E
D	R	K	E	C	L	R	H	K	N	S	Z	X	R	W
I	X	I	R	G	X	E	U	Y	C	D	M	O	L	X
J	T	O	G	C	R	R	K	N	E	F	H	I	L	Q
Q	S	L	T	H	R	O	N	E	C	T	D	G	H	X
S	W	S	I	N	T	X	S	I	U	L	O	P	W	J
N	X	X	X	P	L	H	O	A	R	M	O	I	E	E
X	P	X	B	S	E	Q	A	V	A	W	L	U	V	S
M	L	M	P	Y	H	S	V	N	J	R	B	R	D	U
U	F	G	B	Q	C	U	A	F	D	H	J	Z	M	S
G	M	Z	Q	J	Q	D	V	F	B	D	D	S	V	L

1. We are compassed about by a great what of what?
2. We must lay aside every what? And by the what that easily besets us?
3. We must what with what the what that is set before us? (three words)
4. While running to whom do we look?
5. He is the what and what of our faith?
6. The what was set before Jesus? He endured the what? Despised the what?
7. Jesus is set down at the what? Of the what of God?
8. We must consider him who suffered such contradiction of whom against whom?
9. We are warned not to become weary and faint in your what?
10. What had they not yet resisted unto?

Calloused By The Culture

"It doesn't fit my hand!" That was the excuse an old friend would always offer whenever there was a job that required a shovel, rake, or hoe. Well, in reality, such tools don't fit anyone's hand. The evidence of this fact is seen in the soreness and blisters that appear when these implements are first employed. But, if you stick with it, you can get over the irritation. In fact, seasoned workers develop calluses from their prolonged exposure. They no longer feel the pain. Calluses, you see, result in a reduced sensitivity to the things that would normally cause an unpleasant reaction.

There is a spiritual parallel to the scenario we have just described. However, in this realm it is a hurtful rather than helpful phenomenon. It goes like this: A Christian is in repeated contact with the elements of this world. The immorality, violence, vulgarity, immodesty, sensuality and wickedness of society are an affront to his spiritual sensitivities. He is troubled by what he sees -- it hurts him.

But, little by little, he begins to grow hardened to this irritation. Oh, yes, he still recognizes sin, but somehow it just does not torture him quite so much when he sees it. At first, for instance, he would turn off a TV program in disgust when sex or bad language was aired.

But now, because of his prolonged exposure to such things, he can sit right through it -- taking it all in -- and in the process growing even more calloused to the wickedness he sees. Gradually, he demonstrates less and less discretion about the things he sees and hears, about the places he goes, the things he does, the way he talks, the clothes he wears. You see, his very spiritual being has been altered. He has become calloused by the evil culture.

In Sodom, Lot was "oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men" and he was "tormented day after day with their lawless deeds" (2 Pet. 2:7,8). But, he stayed on -- year after year -- until, finally, he suffered the loss of everything. We can ill afford to follow his sad example. Let us all remain sensitive to the evils around us, and join the Psalmist in saying: "From thy precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way" (Ps. 119:104).

(Copied, Unknown Author)

NEWS AND NOTES

"I was sick, and ye visited me..." (Matthew 25:36)

Carolyn Harper will have surgery in Memphis tomorrow, March 16th.

Stacy Williams will see the cardiologist tomorrow, March 16th, concerning treatment for AFib.

Miles, grandbaby of Jerry and Patti Dodson, will have surgery in Memphis this week if his infection clears up.

Mark Brewer is recuperating after his back surgery and will follow up with his surgeon within the next 2 weeks.

David Dye had kidney stone surgery last week and is improving.

Thad Mangrum is in Room 220 of Encompass Rehab after his hospital stay.

Janice McDaniel, daughter of Jane Spencer, had a pacemaker put in last week.

Please check the bulletin boards for updates on the Prayer Request List, and inform us of any needed updates. Also be sure to read any thank you notes we have received that are on the board.

"Let all things be done unto edifying." (I Corinthians 14:26)

"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:14)

For all our young people, their families, and Winter Quarter Bible class teachers: There will be a pizza and ice cream sundae supper **March 15th** after evening services to *treat you for the great job you have done showing growth in Bible class and worship.* There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer.

The Youth Activity will be in the basement **March 21st** so mark your calendars. Details to come. You may see Jason Garland for more information.

Those Privileged To Serve

March 22, 2020

SUNDAY MORNING

Song Leader: Mark Wooten
Opening Prayer: Barry Roush
Closing Prayer: Ryan Manley
Bible Reading: Kevin Roush
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

LORD'S TABLE

Presiding: Jody Pickens
Hillard Holcomb Micah Tindall
Jeff Presley Robert Stephens
Jim Johnson Carlos Wood

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Nichols

SUNDAY EVENING

Song Leader: Mark Wooten
Opening Prayer: Scottie Blanchard
Closing Prayer: Reginald Read
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

(March 18)

Song Leader: Micah Tindall
Opening Prayer: Collin Powell
Closing Prayer: Craig Nelson

DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER

Jody Pickens

NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK

March 15, 2020

Sunday Bible Study
Sunday AM Worship
Sunday PM Worship
Wednesday Bible Study
Contribution \$

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK:

"The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment."

Proverbs 12:19

The Friend of Truth

Greensboro Road church of Christ

Jonesboro, Arkansas 72405

(870) 932-3920

"Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?" (Galatians 4:16)

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Keep Notes

We always want to rejoice with those who rejoice and again we do today. Our sister, Jan Hopkins, came asking for our prayers this past Lord's Day. She confessed that in her workplace she is called upon to make decisions that do not always please everyone and that sometimes things are said which may not reflect well upon the church and Christ. Keep Jan in your daily prayers daily that she may make good and wise decisions and that others can see Christ living in her.

As everyone knows, many things have changed in our society and the world in which we live. Our government and society have recommended many changes be made in our daily lives and how we live them. This virus has changed many things in our way of going about daily. Our shepherds have been meeting, discussing and praying as they have looked at the circumstances surrounding the church at Greensboro Road and asked me to use these lines to make known certain precautions we will be using to protect ourselves as we continue to worship.

First, everyone should use good hygiene. Wash your hands and use anti-bacterial soap to reduce the spread of this disease. Good common sense would tell us to always and at all times to do this. This is a reminder.

Be careful for the present with hand to hand contact to avoid spreading germs from one to another. We can and have been using fist and elbows to greet one another.

Everyone should know that with the Lord's Supper we will be using individual servings of bread for those who prefer and still will have pieces of bread for those who for conscience sake prefer a piece of bread they can break. Those preparing the supper for us will be using gloves as those in the food service industry use to keep from contaminating either the bread or the cup.

Anyone who has fever, is coughing, sneezing, etc. should use common sense and stay home so we do not spread germs to others. Our love for our brethren would cause us to do nothing that will cause harm to a brother or sister in Christ.

Finally, every surface we touch, from door handles, to faucets, to any common areas we touch are being wiped down after every service to insure that these are kept sanitized as best we can to limit any spreading of germs from one to another.

Any other precautions you may think you need to take will be up to you individually. We intend to continue to meet as we have been meeting. Our time together and the fellowship we enjoy is precious and God have encouraged us to meet for our benefit. If you feel other things are necessary for you to feel more comfortable, that will be up to each member, but the shepherds have decided on these precautions for the present distress that is facing the country.

SHEPHERDS

Dan Nichols
Randy Oden
Jody Pickens

DEACONS

Scottie Blanchard
Jerry Dodson
Mike Felts

Jason Garland
Marshall Lands
Mark Wooten

EVANGELIST

Terry Joe Kee

MISSIONARIES

Michael Hughes
Samrit Kammanee
Arnold Kelley
Guyana, South America
Warren, PA

SERVICES

SUNDAY

Classes 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the Word of God
Romans 10:17

Believe the Word of God
John 8:24

Repent of your sins
Luke 13:3

Confess your faith in Jesus as the Son of God
Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for the remission of your sins
Acts 2:38

Live faithfully
Revelation 2:10

"Where there is no vision, the people perish...."
Proverbs 29:18

God Give Us 2020 Vision in 2020