

Influence: We All Have It

(Romans 14:7)

- Introduction:
1. The power of influence is staggering – the effect we have on other people is life changing.
 2. The Bible describes influence by several metaphors:
 - a. Light (Matthew 5:14-16).
 - b. Salt (Matthew 5:13).
 - c. Leaven (Matthew 13:33).
 - d. Epistles (2 Corinthians 3:2-3).

I. There Are Only Two Kinds Of Influence

- A. There is bad influence.
 1. Solomon's wives (1 Kings 11:1-13).
 2. Pharisees (Matthew 23:13).
 3. The Jezebel of Thyatira (Revelation 2:20).
 4. (1 Corinthians 15:33).
- B. There is good influence.
 1. Esther (Esther 4:14).
 2. Paul in Caesar's household (Philippians 4:22; Acts 28:30-31).
 3. Andrew influenced Peter (John 1:40-42).
- C. Yes, there are only two kinds of influence (Matthew 12:30).

II. Every Person Has Influence

- A. We cannot lose or bury our influence (Revelation 14:13; Hebrews 11:4).
- B. Omri and Ahab & Jeroboam (Micah 6:16).
- C. Korah (Numbers 16).
- D. The ten faithless spies "made the heart of the people melt" (Josh. 14:8).
- E. (Romans 14:7).

III. We Must Be Careful To Guard Our Influence

- A. As a Christian, you represent more than yourself.
- B. (Proverbs 22:1) A good name is to be chosen above riches.
- C. (1 Timothy 2:2,10) Elders and Deacons must be of good report.
- D. Never say, "I don't care what others think or say about me."

- Conclusion:
1. There's no question that you have influence. The question is how and whether you will use it.
 2. The impact of influence:
 - a. John the Baptist (John 1:35-37).
 - b. Andrew (John 1:40-41).
 - c. Philip (John 1:45-46).
 - d. Samaritan Woman (John 4:28-30).