



Lemoore church of Christ

July 26, 2020

Consider Your Influence by: Josh Blackmer

We have an ability that we may not be using effectively for Christ. In His Sermon on the Mount, He described it as salt and light ([Matt. 5:13-16](#)). We should be very concerned about our influence. The Lord's work consists of influencing people in God's direction ([Col. 1:28](#)). Influence comes down to a matter of communication, both verbal or non-verbal. This includes our online communication. Sometimes, we are guilty of neglecting principles of influence and communication. Here are three to consider.

First, we need to examine self before influencing others. The most significant change starts with self. The "inside out" approach in influencing others is best. Jesus illustrates the importance of self-examination with the story of a man with a beam in his eye trying to help a man with a splinter ([Matt. 7:3-5](#)). Paul wrote, "I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified" ([1 Cor. 9:27](#)). In doing this, we must model the conduct we wish to encourage in others ([Acts 20:34-35](#); [1 Cor. 11:1](#)). We must always be an example ([1 Tim. 4:12](#)).

Second, we should try to understand where people are coming from and advise with compassion. It is true that in some cases we have to earn the right to be heard by showing ourselves to be genuinely concerned about the other person. We can often be sympathetic to the situations of others. To be able to be empathetic is more influential. We need to be able to understand the real needs people have. Often a grumpy disposition is less about who they are and more about what they are struggling with. This is not an excuse, but understanding it changes how we approach them. Just telling them to stop being grumpy won't help. If we help them deal with what is making them grumpy, that gets to the source. Understanding needs to go before being understood ([Phil. 2:4](#)). Jesus, the Master Teacher, saw people with His perfect understanding and compassion ([Matt. 9:36](#)).

Lastly, a good example is not enough. We must communicate. Character and compassion are not enough to communicate the truth of the gospel, it takes words ([Eph. 1:13](#); [Acts 11:13-14](#); [Rom. 10:17](#)). The gospel is of no benefit if it is not made clear ([Col. 4:3-4](#); [Eph 6:19-20](#)). We must strive to balance courage and consideration. We must be courteous as well as candid ([Col. 4:5-6](#)). We must communicate. We cannot afford to sacrifice clarity for courtesy. We must be what we ought to be and genuinely seek to understand others. We must "admonish/warn" and "teach" ([Col. 1:28](#)). We all have people in our circle of friends that only we can influence. We are their only link to the truth

of the gospel. Are we using that influence for the sake of Christ or social and political issues?

Five Minutes with God: This week:

Sunday	Day 208	Luke 14:1-6
Monday	Day 209	Luke 14:7-11
Tuesday	Day 210	Luke 14:12-14
Wednesday	Day 211	Luke 14:15-24
Thursday	Day 212	Luke 14:25-33
Friday	Day 213	Matthew 18:10-14
Saturday	Day 214	Luke 15:1-7

Thank you:

Gary Cole wishes to thank everyone for their prayers. His white cell count is in the normal range and his weight is holding. He still gets easily fatigued but is able to return to his regular activities.

Prayer List:

Gary Curtis weak and recovering from kidney stones.
Kathy Shough, relative of Lynda Sander, diagnosed with cancer

Leah Grilione negative test for COVID19 and is recovering from surgery nicely.

Denise Dean awaiting PET scan

Andrew for strength as begins his new life living for Christ.

Whitney Broaddus medical concerns

Kim Cargill, Stephanie Tischmacher's stepmom recovering from cancer surgery.

Darlene Wilson pain in her back

Doug Standridge fighting an infection

Red and Marjory Cooper

Lena Jones home but not doing well

David, from a call to Garrett, requesting prayers.

Gary Cole continued good health

Richard Hunsberger, Stephanie Tischmacher's step-dad, is now home.

Bodie, friend of Bailey Radcliff, currently cancer free

Rita Frankmore is recovering at home

Meryl Wamhoff, friend of Lisa Butts, dealing with a lot of pain and nausea from ongoing chemo and radiation treatments for the next few months. His cancer has a 66% chance of returning.

Gary Radcliff, Garth's father, started chemo and is waiting for biopsy results.

Marlon Raygoza that he gets the supervision he needs.

Linda Frye, Cancer

Bill Fox, co-worker of Frank Baldwin, blood clots in his legs but has returned to work.

Angie and Tito Cano- Tito on maintenance meds

Alexis Raygoza recovering from health issues.

Bart Massey, friend of Dixie Blair, stomach cancer

Casey Case Jr ongoing oncology treatment

Our Mission Work:

- First Responders
- Preachers in Nicaragua
- Agape Village
- Crossover Ministry
- City of Children
- Manuelito's Children's Home
- Church of Christ Disaster relief Fund

- World Christian Broadcasting