

Psalm 78:4 ...we will tell the next generation the **praiseworthy deeds** of the Lord, his **power**, and the **wonders** he has done...

Matthew 5:16 “In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may **see your good deeds** and praise your Father in heaven.”

Jeremiah 15:19 NLT “You are to **influence them**; do not let them influence you!”

This will happen if the church will do 3 things:

1. Recognize our influence.

Acts 16:31 They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.”

2. Exercise our influence.

4 Practical ways to exercise influence...

- ✓ By smiling at people.

Proverbs 15:30 “A cheerful look brings joy to the heart.”

- ✓ By caring for people.

2 Corinthians 1:4 “God...comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.”

- ✓ By serving people.

John 15:13 “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.”

1 Corinthians 9:19 “Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.”

Hebrews 13:16 “And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”

- ✓ By sharing your story.

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere.

- a. Tell them what you were like before Christ.
- b. Tell them what happened to you when you encountered Jesus.
- c. Describe the difference Jesus has made in your life.

3. Maximize our influence.

Acts 11:25-26 Then Barnabas went on to Tarsus to look for Saul. When he found him, he brought him back to Antioch. Both of them stayed there with the church for a full year, teaching large crowds of people. (It was at Antioch that the believers[g] were first called Christians.)

2 Corinthians 10:13-16 “God has assigned to us, a field that reaches even to you. Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our area of activity among you will greatly expand, so that we can preach the gospel in the regions beyond you.”

Why is this important?

- ✓ Because reaching the lost is a Biblical Mandate.

Matthew 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father, son, and Holy Spirit...

- ✓ Because Heaven and Hell are Real.

Luke 15:7 In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away!

- ✓ Because inviting people to a life-giving church is very effective.

Luke 14:16, 23 A man prepared a great feast and sent out many invitations... Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full...

Walk Away: God has reserved Heaven's loudest noise for one who is served and receives the Gospel.