

## Inspired Influencers

### 1 Corinthians 4:8-17

#### I. Intro

##### ● Anecdote

##### • Influencers

- According to a PEW research poll - around 40% of US adults are now following social media influencers.
- And with that being the case - we shouldn't be surprised to learn that...
- ...there are around 127 million influencers around the world - who are actively looking for followers to influence.
- Within this group of 127 million influencers - 54% are nano-influencers - who are able to influence 1,000 to 10,000 followers.
- 33% are micro-influencers - who are able to influence 10,000 to 100,000 followers.
- The remaining 13% are macro and mega-influencers - who are able to influence at the very least - 100,000 followers.
- And the chances are - many - if not most of us here this morning are following some of these social media influencers.

##### • Inspired?

- You might be following food - family - and fashion influencers - or you might be following Health and Wellness Influencers.
- There are gaming influencers - Travel Influencers - and Lifestyle Influencers who love to share their insights about everything.

- There are Political Influencers and there are Pop-culture Coverage Influencers who share their hot takes on famous entertainers.
- And last - but not least - there are spiritual influencers - who love to present their point of view - about religious things.
- And knowing that many believers are following spiritual influencers who love to share their perspective about the Christian faith...
- ...I wanna spend our time today - considering what it means to be an inspired influencer.
- With this as our focus - let's open our Bibles to 1st Corinthians chapter 4.

## II. Displayed

### ● Set up

- Context
- As we make our way to the 4th chapter of 1st Corinthians - I wanna take a moment to put our text - back into it's context.
- It'll help us to remember that the Paul was challenging the Christians in Corinth...
- ...who were attempting to assert their influence on the rest of the church.
- With this as their goal - the were calling Paul's apostolic authority into question - by judging his ability to lead - with unrighteous judgment.
- It's for this reason that Paul rebuked those boastful believers - who were puffed up with pride.
- And now - here in our text today - we find Paul helping the Christians in Corinth - to properly Inspect their Influencers.
- With this as our focus - let's pick up our study of 1st Corinthians 4 - look with me beginning there at verse 8 - where Paul declared...

- Text

1Co 4:8      You are already full! You are already rich! You have reigned as kings without us—and indeed I could wish you did reign, that we also might reign with you!

1Co 4:9      For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.

1Co 4:10     We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored!

1Co 4:11     To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless.

1Co 4:12     And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure;

1Co 4:13     being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now.

1Co 4:14     I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you.

1Co 4:15     For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

1Co 4:16     Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

1Co 4:17     For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.

- Contrast

- Here in our text today - we find Paul - helping the Christians in Corinth - to grasp the difference...
- ...between the so-called influencers - who love to exalt themselves as they sing their own praises...
- ...and the spiritual leaders - who are truly worthy of imitation.
- And he did this - by presenting a clear contrast - between those who were boasting in themselves...

- ...and the servants who were ready to die - for the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- With this as our focus - let's consider the way that Paul challenged the so-called Christian influencers - there at the church in Corinth.
- Rich and Reigning
  - Look with me again - there at verse 8 - where Paul declared...

1Co 4:8      You are already full! You are already rich! You have reigned as kings without us—and indeed I could wish you did reign, that we also might reign with you!

- Now - as we take another look at this verse - I should remind you that it was earlier in this chapter...
  - ...where Paul identified himself as a servant of our Savior - - and a steward of the mysteries of God.
  - In contrast to this - Paul also described those who were judging him with unrighteous judgment...
    - ...as boastful believers - who were puffed up with foolish pride.
    - Now - here in our text today - we find Paul elaborating on his assessment of those carnal Christians.
- Challenge
  - I like the way that the scholars who created the New Living Translation rendered verse 8 - they put it like this...

1Co 4:8    You think you already have everything you need. You think you are already rich. You have begun to reign in God's kingdom without us! I wish you really were reigning already, for then we would be reigning with you.

- In other words - the carnal Christians who were causing divisions there at the church in Corinth...

- ...were attempting to assert their influence - by presenting a facade of spirituality - that failed to correspond to reality.
- They were claiming to be filled with all the spiritual gifts - and not only that - but they were claiming to be wealthy with the word of God.
- What's even more is that - they were claiming to be kings - who were ruling and reigning with Christ.
- And it's for this reason that Paul took the time to present them with an accurate picture of true Christian leadership.
- Spectacle
- With this as our focus - let's take another look - there at verse 9 - where Paul declared...

1Co 4:9      For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.

- Here in this verse - we find Paul - helping his audience to understand that...
- ...the Lord wasn't calling the true leaders of the church to reign like kings over their congregation.
- No - instead - He was making a spiritual spectacle of them - by putting their lives on display...
- ...as He allowed the apostles to be persecuted for their faith in Jesus Christ.
- And in this way - the Lord provided a way for the first century church - to inspect their influencers.

## ● Application

- Display

- I like the way that Paul put it - in 2nd Corinthians chapter 11 - it's verses 23 thru 28 - where he asked...

2Co 11:23 Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often.

2Co 11:24 From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one.

2Co 11:25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep;

2Co 11:26 in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

2Co 11:27 in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—

2Co 11:28 besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul describing the way that his faith had been put on display - like a man who was condemned to death.
  - And while it's true that the persecutions and the problems that he experienced - turned him into a spectacle of suffering...
  - ...it's also true that this was God's way for setting him apart - from the carnal Christians - who wanted to have influence - without sacrifice.
  - Therefore - Paul was right to rebuke those who were judging him with unrighteous judgment...
    - ...while simultaneously claiming to be kings - who had the authority to influence others - in their Christian congregation.

- Transition

- Points

- As we consider the way that Paul rebuked those carnal Christians - it's important to understand that...
  1. ...Inspired Influencers are those whom the Lord has Displayed as spectacles - for His glory.
  2. ...Not only that - but - Inspired Influencers will also be Despised for the sake of our Savior.
    - With this as our focus - let's continue to consider the way that Paul rebuked the carnal Christians at the church in Corinth.
    - Let's take another look - there at 1st Corinthians chapter 4.
      - I wanna focus your attention there at verse 10 - where Paul declared...

### III. Dishonored

#### ● Text

1Co 4:10 We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored!

- Fools vs wise
  - Here in this verse - we find Paul - continuing to challenge those who were exalting themselves...
    - ...so that they might realize that their self-promotion wasn't based in the wisdom of God.
    - And he began with a bit of sanctified sarcasm - by declaring: "We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ!"
    - In other words - Paul was helping the original recipients of this epistle to understand that...
      - ...those who were boasting about their ability to judge between Paul and Apollos...

- ...weren't really walking in the wisdom of God - - no - instead - they were judging according to the wisdom of this world.

- Wisdom

- I like the way that James described the difference between the wisdom of God - and the wisdom of this world.

- It's in the third chapter of his epistle - where James asked...

Jas 3:13      Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.

Jas 3:14      But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.

Jas 3:15      This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.

Jas 3:16      For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

Jas 3:17      But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

- Those who are truly walking in the wisdom of God - won't spend their time boasting about themselves.
- In contrast to this - those who are walking in the wisdom of this world are puffed up with pride...
- ...as they attempt to promote themselves - for their own personal gain.
- It's for this reason that we should take the time to inspect the wisdom of those who are trying to influence us - by asking...
- ...are they walking in the wisdom of God - or are they walking in the wisdom of this world?

- Weak vs strong



- Not only that - but - we should also inspect the claims of those who boast about their abilities.
- Let's consider how Paul put it - here in 1st Corinthians chapter 4 - look with me again - there at verse 10 - where Paul declared...

1Co 4:10ab We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong!...

- Here in the middle of this verse - we find Paul - continuing to challenge the boastful believers in Corinth - who were criticizing Paul for being weak.
  - And listen - they weren't wrong - - Paul was in fact struggling with a thorn in the flesh - which left him in a state of weakness.
  - Remember - it was back in the second chapter of this epistle - where Paul candidly confessed...
    - "...I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling."
    - And it's sad to say that the carnal Christians there in Corinth used this as an opportunity to dishonor Paul.
- Distinguished vs dishonored
- Let's consider how he put it - here in our text today - look with me again there at verse 10 - where Paul declared...

1Co 4:10 We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored!

- In other words - the boastful believers in Corinth saw Paul's weakness - as a reason to dishonor his calling in Christ.
  - And just to be clear - that word - dishonored - was translated from a Greek word - which can also be rendered - despised.
  - What this means is that - the carnal Christians in Corinth were not only glorifying themselves as distinguished disciples...

- ...but they were also leading others to despise Paul - as they described him as foolish - and weak.
- That being the case - we shouldn't be surprised - when the leaders of the Lord - are despised by those who puffed up with pride.

## ● Application

### • Jesus

- And listen - this should come as no surprise - especially as we consider the Messianic prophecy that Isaiah presented.
- It's in Isaiah 53 - verse 3 - where the prophet described the Lord Jesus - by declaring...

Isa 53:3      He is despised and rejected by men,  
A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.  
And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him;  
He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

- According to the Messianic prophecy - the promised Messiah would be despised and rejected by men.
- And just as the prophet Isaiah foretold - - the Lord Jesus was in fact despised and rejected by the people of Israel.
- Not only them - but - the Lord Jesus has also been despised and rejected by people all around the world - for the last 2000 years.
- That being the case - we shouldn't be surprised when the leaders of the Lord - are also despised for their commitment to Christ.
- And I would even argue that - this is another way - to identify to the inspired influencers of the Lord.

## ● Transition

- Points

- This brings us to our third point - because listen...

1. ...Inspired Influencers are not only those whom the Lord has Displayed as spectacles - for His glory.
2. ...and - Inspired Influencers are not only those who are Despised for the sake of our Savior....
3. ...but - Inspired Influencers are also those who are Defamed for their commitment to Christ.

- With this as our focus - let's continue to consider the way that Paul rebuked the carnal Christians at the church in Corinth.

- Let's take another look - there at 1st Corinthians chapter 4.

- I wanna focus your attention there at verse 11 - where Paul declared...

#### IV. Defamed

- Text

1Co 4:11 To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless.

1Co 4:12 And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure;

1Co 4:13 being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now.

- Defamed

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - describing the way in which the boastful believers in Corinth - were defaming his good name.
- And just to be clear - it'll help you to know that the word - defamed - found there in verse 13...

- ...was translated from the Greek word - blasphemēō - which is the basis for our English word - blasphemy.
- The original Greek word was used of those who engage in the unjustified defamation of those they're criticizing.
  - And it's sad to say that - it's not uncommon for carnal Christians - to defame those who are laboring for the Lord.
    - That being the case - we should take a moment to consider the problems that play out...
      - ...whenever Christian influencers attempt to protect their fame - from defamation.
- Popularity
  - When it comes to the goal of creating a brand - that can be monetized...
  - ...many influencers place a greater priority on likes - and subscribers - than they do on teaching the doctrines that easily offend.
  - And the reason why is because - they prefer popularity - to poverty.
  - They favor the fame that brings fortune - over the defamation that causes many Christians to get cancelled.
  - And if this sounds like the influencers that you're following - then I encourage you to consider the example of Paul...
    - ...who was willing to suffer the loss of everything - for the sake of being an inspired influencer.
- Poor
  - With this as our focus - let's take another look at verse 11 - where Paul declared..
 

1Co 4:11     To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless.

- Rather than seeking the fame and fortune that can easily be acquired by the influencers who tell people what they want to hear...
- ...Paul was an apostle - who preached the full counsel of God's word - in season and out of season.
- Rather than winning friends - and influencing people - Paul was teaching the truth...
  - ...as he convinced - rebuked - and exhorted the Christians there in Corinth.
  - And as a result - he was hungry and homeless - after being defamed by the people he was trying to lead.
- Labor
- With this in mind - let's take another look at our text today - beginning there at verse 12 - where Paul declared...

1Co 4:12 ...we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure;

1Co 4:13 being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - informing his audience - that he was working with his hands - so that he could support himself - financially.
- But rather than embracing this man - who was laboring in the love of the Lord...
- ...the carnal Christians in Corinth were reviling the man - who was determined to bless them.
- And while it's true that the boastful believers in Corinth were defaming him - by treating him like the scum of the earth...
- ...it's also true that Paul was entreating them - by exhorting them with the instructions of God's holy word.

- Labor
- Now - as we consider Paul's example - I should take a moment to remind you that it was prior to his Christian conversion...
- ...when Paul was on track - to become the most influential Rabbi in the history of Israel.
- Paul had been discipled by a famous Rabbi named Gamaliel - who was was the leader of the Sanhedrin.
- And while Paul was well on his way to becoming a famous Israeli influencer of great power - and prestige...
- ...he gave it all up - and instead - he became a Christian who was ready to suffer the loss of everything...
- ...as he exchanged popularity for persecution - and at the same time - he gave up fame - for defamation.

## ● Application

- Gain
- In order to understand why - let's consider the way that he explained it - in Philippians chapter 3 - it's verses 7 and 8 - where he declared...

Phl 3:7 ...what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

Phl 3:8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ...

- Paul was willing to suffer the loss of everything - including the influence that he has acquired as a Pharisee...
- ...because - he knew that it would be better to be a defamed disciple of Christ - than to be a famous Pharisee.

- And as we consider his example - I encourage you to realize that...
- ...the inspired influencers of the Lord - are less interested in their personal popularity...
- ...and instead - they're ready to be defamed - for their commitment to Christ Jesus.

## ● Transition

### • Points

- Now - this brings us to our fourth point - because listen...
  1. ...Influencers are not only those whom the Lord has Displayed as spectacles - for His glory.
  2. ...Inspired Influencers are not only those who are Despised for the sake of our Savior....
  3. ...and - Inspired Influencers are not only those who are Defamed for their commitment to Christ.
  4. ...but - Inspired Influencers are also those who are Discipled - according to the instructions of God's word.
- With this as our focus - let's continue to consider the way that Paul rebuked the carnal Christians at the church in Corinth.
- Let's take another look - there at 1st Corinthians chapter 4.
  - I wanna focus your attention there at verse 14 - where Paul declared...

## V. Discipled

### ● Text

1Co 4:14 I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you.

1Co 4:15 For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

1Co 4:16 Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

- Children
  - Here in these verses - we find Paul - assuring the original recipients of this epistle - that it wasn't his desire to shame them.
  - No - instead - he was simply providing them with the discipline that they needed.
  - And like a loving father - who chastens his children - so that they might receive the correction that they needed...
  - ...Paul was helping them to understand that he was simply providing them with the discipline that they needed...
  - ...so that they could become the disciples of Christ - who were disciplined according to the instructions of the Lord Jesus.
- Commission
  - Remember - it's in Matthew chapter 28 where the Lord Jesus commissioned His apostles - by declaring...

Mat 28:18 "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.  
Mat 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
Mat 28:20 "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.

- Christian - listen - we haven't been called to make converts - through emotionally charged crusades...



- ...and we haven't been called to find followers - who subscribe to our social media platforms.
- No - instead - we've been called to actively engage in a Christian community - where discipleship is taking place - face to face.
- And much like Christians in Corinth - who were called to be discipled like children being trained up by their father...
- ...every Christian has been called to become disciples - within the context of their Christian community.
- Pastor
  - Paul put it best - in Ephesians chapter 4 - where he informed us that the Lord has raised up pastor-teacher...

Eph 4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

Eph 4:13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

- In other words - the Lord has appointed - and anointed some Christians to serve as pastor-teachers...
- ...so that the Christians in every congregation are able to receive the discipleship we need - to be equipped and edified.
- And while Paul acknowledged the fact that the Christians in Corinth has many instructors - who were able to teach them...
- ...it's important to understand that true discipleship is so much more than the instruction that comes from our favorite influencers.
- Imitate
  - Let's consider again how Paul put it here in our text today - look with me again - beginning there at verse 15 - where he declared...

1Co 4:15 For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

1Co 4:16 Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

- Paul wasn't just an influential instructor - like the itinerant teachers - who traveled from town to town.
- No - instead - he was a spiritual father - who was invested in the spiritual maturity of the Christians there in Corinth.
- And while there's nothing wrong with enjoying the teachings of those who are uploading their sermons online...
- ...it's crucial for Christians to realize the true discipleship is based on the relational influence...
- ...that provides us with a living example - of what it looks like to live a life that is pleasing to the Lord.

#### ● Application

- Pastor
- Christian - listen - you might have your favorite influencers - who inspire you with their daily posts.
- And you might have your favorite pastors - who influence you with incredible Bible studies.
- There's nothing wrong with having ten thousand instructors in Christ - so long as they are teaching the truth of God's word.
- At the same time - it's important to realize that - true discipleship takes place in the context of communal connection.
- And the reason why is because - true discipleship is so much more than instructional influence.

- Discipleship also includes Christian connectivity - and involves congregational accountability.
- Therefore - inspired influencers are those who have been discipled - so that they can make disciples - according to God's word.

## ● Transition

### • Points

- Now - this brings us to our fifth and final point - because listen...
  1. ...Influencers are not only those whom the Lord has Displayed as spectacles - for His glory.
  2. ...Inspired Influencers are not only those who are Despised for the sake of our Savior....
  3. ...and - Inspired Influencers are not only those who are Defamed for their commitment to Christ...
  4. ...and - Inspired Influencers are not only those who are Discipled - according to the instructions of God's word....
  5. ...but - Inspired Influencers are also those who wait to be Delegated by the leaders who have authority.
- With this as our focus - let's continue to consider the way that Paul rebuked the carnal Christians at the church in Corinth.
- Let's take another look - there at 1st Corinthians chapter 4.
- I wanna focus your attention there at verse 17 - where Paul declared...

## VI. Delegated

### ● Text

1Co 4:17 For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.

- Timothy
  - Here in this verse - we find Paul - helping the Christians in Corinth to understand why he sent Timothy to them.
  - At this point in time - Paul was helping to establish the church in the city of Ephesus - which was located in Asia Minor.
  - And seeing how Paul and Timothy both spent 18 months in the city of Corinth...
    - ...Paul was convinced that Timothy had the influence that would be necessary...
      - ...for addressing the divisive disciples - who were creating contentions there at the church in Corinth.
      - And what this means is that Paul picked Timothy for this task - because he already had influence at the church in Corinth.
- Remind
  - Not only that - but Timothy was also a believer - who was able to clearly communicate the doctrines that Paul taught in every church.
  - With this in mind - let's take another look there at verse 17 - where Paul declared...

1Co 4:17 For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.

- As we take another look at this verse - we can see that Paul not only trusted Timothy - because - he was like a faithful son...

- ...he also trusted Timothy to set things straight in Corinth - because he knew that Timothy could remind them about his ways in Christ.
- Paul knows that Timothy not only understood the doctrines that he taught in every church...
- ...but - he was also certain that Timothy had received the spiritual gifts that are necessary...
  - ...for correcting the carnal Christians - who were causing divisions.
- Gift
  - Proof of my point can be found in 1st Timothy chapter 4 - it's verse 12 where Paul encouraged pastor Timothy - by declaring...
 

1Ti 4:12      Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

1Ti 4:13      Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

1Ti 4:14      Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.
  - Here in these verses - we find Paul - encouraging his protege to accomplish his calling in Christ...
    - ...according to the spiritual gift that he received from the Holy Spirit...
    - ...which was also confirmed through prophetic utterance - on the day when the elders laid their hands on him at the time of his ordination.
    - And what this means is that Timothy was not only disciplined by Paul...
      - ...but - he was also spiritual gifted - - and ordained to accomplish this calling - as a spiritual influencer.
- Sent
  - And listen - the same can be said for Paul - - as a matter of fact - it's in Acts chapter 13 - - beginning at verse 1 - where Luke writes...

Act 13:1 Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

Act 13:2 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

Act 13:3 Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.

Act 13:4 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

- Here in these verses - we learn about the way that Paul and Barnabas were selected - and separated by the Holy Spirit...
- ...for the special work to which the Lord was calling them.
- And it was the leaders at the church in Antioch - who confirmed this calling - as they laid hands on them - and sent them out.
- And as we consider this example - we can see that the spiritual influencers who are separated by the Holy Spirit...
- ...are not only disciplined by their leaders - but - they also receive a delegation - according to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- Delegated?
- In order to further make my case - let's consider the instructions that Paul presented to pastor Timothy.
- Let's turn in our Bibles to 2nd Timothy chapter 2 - and as we make our way to the second chapter of 2nd Timothy...
- ...I wanna take a moment to ask - - are the influencers that you follow truly inspired by the Holy Spirit.

- And just to be clear - I'm not talking about the food influencers - who love to post videos about their favorite culinary delights.
- Nor am I asking about the influential gamers who seem to have no shortage of followers - who want to know more about gaming.
- I'm not talking about your health and wellness influencers - nor am I asking about the influential travelers who love to tell their stories.
- No - instead - I'm asking about the spiritual influencers who share their perspective on the Christian faith.

## ● Application

- Able
- Are the spiritual influencers that you follow actually disciples who have been delegated - according to the calling of the Holy Spirit?
- With this question in mind - let's consider the instructions Paul presented to Pastor Timothy - here in 2nd Timothy 2 - it's verse 1 where he declared...

2Ti 2:1          You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

2Ti 2:2          And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - encouraging Pastor Timothy - to disciple faithful believers...
- ...who can then be delegated to become spiritual influencers - who are discipling others.
- And while I realize that I'm running the risk of sounding like a critical gatekeeper - who is trying to stop people from serving our Savior...
- ...please let me assure you that - it's not my desire to limit the work that God wants to accomplish...

- ...through the Christian influencers - who have been called - and equipped by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Discerning
  - At the same time - I also encourage every Christian to realize that - there are many false teachers - who are masquerading as Christian Influencers.
  - I like the way that Jude put it - in the third verse of his epistle - it's there where he declared...

Jde 1:3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

Jde 1:4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Just because some claims to be a Christian influencer doesn't mean that their influence should be followed.
  - And whether we're talking about pastors - or authors - scholars or social media influencers...
  - ...it's crucial for every Christian to realize that - there are false teachers who are leading many astray.
    - And yeah - this includes those who have huge following online - and this - despite the fact that...
    - ...they themselves have no pastor - who laid hands on them - and sent them to accomplish this calling.

## VII. Conclusion

- Wrap up
  - Points



- Knowing that there are many spiritual influencers have not been separated - and sent by the Holy Spirit...
- ...I encourage every Christian to remember that...
  1. ...Influencers are those whom the Lord has Displayed as spectacles - for His glory.
  2. ...Inspired Influencers are also those who are often Despised for the sake of our Savior.
  3. ...Inspired Influencers are those who be Defamed for their commitment to Christ.
  4. ...And Inspired Influencers are those who are Discipled - according to the instructions of God's word.
  5. ...Finally - Inspired Influencers are also those who wait to be Delegated by the leaders who have authority to send them out.
- And with all of this being the case - I encourage every Christian to make sure that...
  - ...the Bible teachers - and the spiritual instructors that we choose to follow - are actually spiritually inspired influencers.