

Fashioned

IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

WEEK EIGHTEEN INFLUENTIAL

DAY 1

1. Begin your study time with prayer.
2. Influence is incredibly powerful. It stands in stark contrast to control in that it does not seek to exert itself by force. When we control people and/or situations by force it is possible we may succeed, but those under our controlling hand will, with time, begin to resent it. They may become angry at their lack of freedom and seek to lash out in rebellion against the control they feel is stifling them. Influence, on the other hand, does not seek to sway by force. Rather, influence draws and entices toward a desired end, allowing the recipient to follow of his or her own free will. As you think about your interactions with those close to you do you lean more toward control or influence?

3. In situations where you are tempted to be controlling, what emotion is motivating you to do so? How are your attempts at control received?

4. How does our flawed, sinful nature make us unqualified to control things properly? What does Isaiah 55:8-9 remind us? Instead of requiring people to bend to our will or control, what does Proverbs 3:5-7 instruct us to do? Who is responsible to make our path and the lives of those we love "straight?"

5. Write out this week's memory verse on a notecard or a piece of paper and post it somewhere you will see it often (e.g bathroom mirror, car, desk, kitchen sink, etc.).

Scripture Memory:

Be imitators of me,
just as I also am of
Christ.

~1 Corinthians 11:1

I'm praying about:

DAY 2

1. Begin your study time with prayer.
2. Whether you realize it or not, your life has a powerful influence on the lives of those around you. You can choose to influence people toward godliness, or you can use your influence to compel people to follow your lead into sin. Jezebel was a woman who had great influence with her husband, Ahab. Read 1 Kings 21:1-16. What was Ahab's problem and what was Jezebel's response?
3. What was the consequence of her sinful influence in 1 Kings 21:17-25 and what happened to her in 2 Kings 9:30-37?
4. Delilah was another woman with great influence over a man. What was the result of the influence she exerted over Samson in Judges 16:4-6, 15-21 & 28-30?
5. Both Delilah and Jezebel's influence had grave consequences. How does seeing the negative effect of their influence cause you to consider the effects of your own influence more carefully?
6. Write out this week's memory verse below:

DAY 3

1. Begin your study time with prayer.
2. How we use the influence we are granted is very important. What were the men using their influence to urge or persuade people to do in Acts 13:43, Acts 19:26, Acts 26:28 and Acts 28:23?
3. As you gain influence with people, is using your influence to point them to the Gospel a primary motivation? Why or why not? When or why is it hard to use your influence with people to share Christ?
4. For those with whom we have influence who already know Christ, what does Hebrews 10:24-25 encourage us to do? How do you go about carrying out the instructions in these verses?
5. What does Proverbs 27:17 say? We are called to "sharpen" one another. Who has God given you influence with and how can you use this influence to "sharpen" (push toward godliness) others? How and with whom do you put yourself in a position to be "sharpened?"
6. Write out this week's memory verse below:

DAY 4

1. Begin your study time with prayer.
2. Because our influence can be so powerful we must carefully consider who, what and why we are influencing others. If we are not watchful we can easily influence people in a poor direction. If we want to inspire people toward godliness we must first examine what we allow to influence us in our own lives. We will influence others out of the overflow of that which influences us. Many times we attempt to influence solely through an outward appearance of godliness. However, if we are not truly inwardly godly we become hypocrites. What does Matthew 23:25-28 instruct us to do instead? (see specifically verse 26)
3. Think about your own life. What is the main source from which you glean ideas, inspiration and truth? Think not just in Biblical terms, but of your life as a whole. What are the greatest influences in your life? Are these sources godly? Are they sourced in Biblical truth or are they simply self help maxims? Is there any portion of your life that God is convicting you to "clean out?"
4. What does Paul tell the Corinthians to do as he follows Christ in 1 Corinthians 11:1? Are you following Christ closely enough that you could issue the same request to those around you? Would they be drawn closer to or farther from Christ by following your lead?
6. Write out this week's memory verse below:

DAY 5

1. Begin your study time with prayer.
2. What does Proverbs 16:23-24 say adds persuasiveness (influence) to our speech? If you feel you lack the ability to speak this way to those you care about ask God to grow you in this area.
3. What two things does Matthew 5:13-16 compare us to? What does verse 16 challenge us to do?
4. One of the functions of salt is to be a preservative and prevent decay. Light illuminates the darkness. As a Christian your very presence should have an effect on those around you. Would the people you interact with consider you "salt" and "light?" Why or why not? What must change to enable your light to shine brighter?
5. There may be times you feel your "influence" is insignificant. However, as you follow Him, God is able to grant you influence as He sees fit. The question is: How will you use it? Godly influence has incredible power to inspire hope, shine light in the darkness, and be a step in the redemption of someone's soul. Are you willing to surrender fully to the Lord, obey Him in all things, and allow Him to use your influence to point people to Christ? If the honest answer is yes, take a moment and commit to use your life to influence people for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is the greatest influencing we can do!
7. Write out this week's memory verse below: