

:: Summary

In wrapping up the "Don't Waste This" series, we must consider the challenge and invitation to seize this challenging time in history and every moment thereafter as participants in a movement in which the world is being made new and right in Jesus. The opportunity before all of us is to accept the invitation and become active influencers who are empowered and commanded by God to shape the world for the sake of His glory and the gospel.

:: Share

Every day, all of us exert, receive and reject influence as it is transmitted back and forth in the context of community and through modern technology. How would you summarize the kinds of influence you exert on a regular basis?

:: Explore and Discuss | Genesis 1:26-28, 1 Peter 2:9 and Notes

Interpreting the word "image" used in Genesis 1:26-27 according to the ancient Near Eastern context means a proxy; a royal ambassador or representative bearing resemblance to God, what is the responsibility of every person made in God's image?

In Genesis 1:28, God's command to rule and subdue the world is given in the context of the garden of Eden, a command to ongoing care of what has been entrusted to humanity. Name the implications for how we relate to the world and the people in it.

1 Peter 2:9 teaches that *every* follower of Jesus is a member of a royal priesthood, who shares in his ministry work of reconciliation. What does that mean in daily life?

:: Apply it to Your Life

As you consider the places and people God has placed around you, what does your environment reveal about your influence? Has your influence cultivated a lush garden, produced a dirt patch full of dried sticks and weeds, or something in between?

How does influencing others as part of a "royal priesthood" in Jesus feel exciting and daunting? How do you need God's help in participating in Jesus' ministry work?

:: Pray

Father, help me take ownership of the measure of influence you have given me, that I might use it for your glory and according to your good plans for the world. Would you show me how to do that, and help me recognize everyday opportunities to influence those you have strategically placed around me.



:: Summary

We are influencers for God when we simply live out the commands of Jesus in the communities where God has placed us. This is how we demonstrate what God is like to the world. By the power of God's Spirit at work within us, we can have significant influence for the glory of God through simple actions in the most ordinary circumstances.

