

A MATTER OF INFLUENCE

First Baptist Church and The Lakefront Church - Venice, Florida

One Church - Two Locations September 7, 2025

1 Kings 3:7-9 (NLT) *"Now, O Lord my God, you have made me king instead of my father, David, but I am like a little child who doesn't know his way around. 8 And here I am in the midst of your own chosen people, a nation so great and numerous they cannot be counted! 9 Give me an understanding heart so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong. For who by himself is able to govern this great people of yours?"*

Proverbs 12:26 *"The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray."*

1 Kings 3:1 *Solomon made an alliance with Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, and married one of his daughters. He brought her to live in the City of David ...*

2 Chronicles 8:11 (CSB) *Solomon brought the daughter of Pharaoh from the city of David to the house he had built for her, for he said, "My wife must not live in the house of King David of Israel because the places the ark of the Lord has come into are holy."*

1 Kings 11 (CSB) *King Solomon loved many foreign women in addition to Pharaoh's daughter: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women 2 from the nations about which the Lord had told the Israelites, "You must not intermarry with them, and they must not intermarry with you, because they will turn your heart away to follow their gods." To these women Solomon was deeply attached in love.*

Close Connections: Marriage, Deep Friendships

1. Spiritually
2. Emotionally
3. Physically

Spirit: Your Spirit + Holy Spirit or 'welcome mat' spirit

How you connect to God or the spirit world

Soul: Your Mind ~ Your Will ~ Your Emotions

How you connect to yourself, decision-making

Body: Your 5 Senses

How you connect to the world around you.

1 Kings 11:4-6 (CSB) *When Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away to follow other gods. He was not wholeheartedly devoted to the Lord his God, as his father David had*

been. 5Solomon followed Ashtoreth, the goddess of the Sidonians, and Milcom, the abhorrent idol of the Ammonites. 6Solomon did what was evil in the Lord's sight, and unlike his father David, he did not remain loyal to the Lord.

1 Kings 12:8-11 (CSB) But he (King Rehoboam) rejected the advice of the elders who had advised him and consulted with the young men who had grown up with him and attended him. 9He asked them, "What message do you advise that we send back to this people who said to me, 'Lighten the yoke your father put on us?'" 10The young men who had grown up with him told him, "This is what you should say to this people who said to you, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but you, make it lighter on us!' This is what you should tell them: 'My little finger is thicker than my father's waist! 11Although my father burdened you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with barbed whips.'"

Proverbs 12:26 "The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray."

2 Timothy 2:2 "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."

1 Timothy 4:12 (NLT) Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.

- Who influences you? Are your influencers Spiritually led? Who are you influencing?
- The strongest chains that hold you are the dreams you abandoned.
- The worst interruption of your night's sleep is living with the self you never became.
- Your greatest freedom comes when you finally become the person God purposed you to be. Only God can do this!

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October 5, 10:00 AM - Joint Worship for the Church Family  
Lakefront Campus - 3100 Executive Drive  
October 12, 9:30 AM - Grand Welcoming for the Community  
Lakefront Campus - 3100 Executive Drive  
First Baptist Church - Connection Classes at 9:30 and Worship