

The Heart of a Shepherd

Part II: Discovering the Art of Influence

I. Influential vs. Positional Leadership

A. All Things to All People

1. It states in 1 Corinthians 9:19-22 (HCSB), “For although I am free from all people, I have made myself a slave to all, in order to win more people. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win Jews; to those under the law, like one under the law-to win those under the law. To those who are outside the law, like one outside the law-not being outside God’s law, but under the law of Christ-to win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, in order to win the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I may be all means save some.” What does this scripture imply is one of the keys for being an influencer of people?

B. Questions to Ask Yourself

1. Are you trying to strategically influence anybody for Christ?

2. In Mark 1:17 (HCSB) it is written “Follow Me,” Jesus told them, “and I will make you fishers of people!” If there are different fish what do the different types of people in your life look like?

3. How are you going to influence the people in your life for Christ?

4. How much time have you given yourself to influence people so they can know God?

II. Influencing Strategy

A. Key Principles to Influence

1. In Matthew 5:13-16 (HCSB) it is stated, “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty? It’s no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” What then does this scripture say will happen if you display or not display Christ by your example?

2. In 2 Corinthians 9:13-14 (HCSB) it is written, “Through the proof of this service, they will glorify God for your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with others. And in their prayers for you they will have deep affection for you because of the surpassing grace of God on you.” What does this scripture say is essential to having a positive influence for Christ on others?

3. In Proverbs 25:21-22 (HCSB) it is written, “If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; for you will heap coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you.” This same scripture is repeated by the Apostle Paul in Romans 12:20 with an added statement in Romans 12:21 “Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good.” What do these scriptures then imply is a key principle of influencing others?

B. Questions To Probe the Leader’s Soul

1. What is your life goal?
2. Are you willing to adapt and change to become an influencer of men?
3. Are you willing to pay a price too mentally, socially, and practically be an influencer of others?