

## **General Leadership Principles**

Lesson designed by: Bob Turner

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### **Course description: General Leadership Principles Part 5**

This course deals with the power of our influence as leaders. This is the second of four lessons designed to consider the influences in history, biblical influences, influences in our lives personally, and how we can improve in our ability to influence others. These lessons follow the Dale Carnegie lessons on “How to Influence People to our Way of Thinking.”

### **Course Objectives: By the end of the class students will have:**

- A. Listed one or two of the people in our lives who have demonstrated the greatest influence.
- B. Examined one major passage of scripture that discusses the powerful nature of our influence as disciples of Jesus.
- C. Described five ways to apply the text in Matthew 5:13-16 as it relates to our influence.

### **Outline of the class:**

- A. Ask each person in the class to take 5 minutes to think about the person or persons who have influenced them the most. Also, ask them to describe how that person influenced them.
- B. Once they complete the task, ask for volunteers in the class to share with everyone who that person is or was and how they influenced them. It may include one or more from the list below.
  - 1. Parent
  - 2. Teacher
  - 3. Friend
  - 4. Political figure
  - 5. Entertainer
- C. Divide the class into groups of four. Introduce to everyone that there are several passages we could consider as we discuss influence, but one major passage stands out: Matthew 5:13-16. Ask the groups to read through this text and spend about 10 minutes to list at least five ways to apply the text as it relates to our influence in the world. As them to list “specific” ways to apply.
- D. Once they complete the task, ask each group to share the specific areas they would apply the text to our influence in the world. Write down the answers provided on a whiteboard. A few possible responses are listed below:

1. Power of our words: words spoken in anger or kindness, words that build up or tear down, words that encourage or discourage, etc.
2. The places we visit: go into a liquor store to buy a bottle of water, sports events, dances, health clubs, riots, protests, lingerie shops, types of restaurants, church building, etc.
3. The activities we participate in: helping the elderly, homeless, abused, giving someone a lift because their car is broken down, fixing a flat tire, church related events (gospel meetings, lectureships, Bible class, etc.), hosting people in our home, giving someone a ride to the doctor, picking up groceries, etc.
4. The attitudes we demonstrate: anger, disgust, arrogant, holier than thou, bitter, pessimistic (negative), optimistic (positive), happy, joy, excited, enthusiastic, lazy, active, etc.
5. The people we associate with: liars, lazy, cheaters, thieves, drunks, drug addicts, Christians, professional business people, rich, poor, sick, widows, shut-ins, etc. (Be careful here because we need to influence others for the cause of Christ. But, if we find ourselves spending a great deal of time with people of less than reputable character and we are not influencing them, we may need to check to see if they are influencing us.)
6. The lists above are not in and of themselves right or wrong, depending on the nature with which they are approached. Certainly, as Christians, we want to ensure that our influence is godly. We need to be discerning in how we approach these areas.

#### Conclusion:

- A. Influence is powerful. It can be a positive or negative influence, good or bad. Influence is just influence. We need to consider the people who have influenced us and why their influence was so powerful.
- B. We also need to think about what Jesus said regarding influence and how we can specifically be the salt of the earth and light of the world.
- C. Next week, we will dig deeper into this subject. We will talk about several insights connected to influence and ways we can improve our influence.

#### Recommending Reading:

Maxwell, John. *21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*