

Spiritual Influence

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: John 17.
- B. Spiritual leadership is in a different category of authority.
- C. Leadership is to influence the actions and attitudes of others.
- D. Spiritual influence moves people toward the things of God and has no regard for position—it is not a matter of authority.
- E. Spiritual influence is given by God. (Matthew 15:13)

II. Fundamentals of spiritual influencing.

A. God gave Jesus the work.

- 1. This is the unique work of redemption.
- 2. Jesus is the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. (Hebrews 1:3)
- 3. Our part is to reap in the harvest that has been accomplished. (Matthew 9:37)
- 4. It is essential to remember that the harvest is plentiful and the workers are few. We take part in what God is doing through laboring.
- 5. Being a laborer. (Acts 10:32)
 - a. He is filled with the Spirit like Jesus.
 - b. He goes about doing good like Jesus while most just go about.
 - c. He goes about healing those oppressed of the Devil, which is first sharing the gospel and second helping other Christians. This happens through prayer. (2 Corinthians 4)

B. God gave Jesus the persons.

- 1. Jesus had bifocal vision. He died for the whole world but ministered to a small group out of the world.
- 2. We should have a vision for the world but also a ministry to a small group out of the world.
- 3. We start with the people around us—for example, your spouse, your family, your relatives, your friends, people in your church and people at your job. (Ephesians 5)

4. God is love, and God is holy. If we are to manifest God to the world we must manifest these traits.

a. Love is an unselfish concern that freely accepts another and seeks his good.

b. Holiness begins with humility. Humility is the great virtue and the grounds by which Jesus said to learn from Him. God gives grace to the humble. (Matthew 11:29, James 4:6)

C. God gave Jesus the words to give.

1. We must stay true to God's Word.

2. We must give the people God's Word. (Hebrews 4:12, 2 Corinthians 4:2)

3. Authority of a spiritual influencer is confronting with the Word of God with the power of the Spirit.

III. Spiritual influence is given by God. He has done His part—we must make sure we do ours.

Application questions

1. What is the relationship between our involvement in spiritual influence and God's giving of it?

2. What traits are essential for spiritual influence? How do these look?

3. Who is an example of a spiritual leader in your life? What qualities of the person mark him or her out as a spiritual leader?
