



## BE THE CHANGE: Your Influence Is Real

### Week 1

I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing...If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. (John 15:5, 7 NIV)

#### - **SURVEY:** Influence in *Your* Life

- **A Social Media Influencer...**is a user on social media who has established credibility in a specific industry. A social media influencer has access to a large audience and can persuade others by virtue of their authenticity and reach.
- **There are Christian leaders and voices who have a great deal of online influence as well.** Here are their number of Instagram followers as well:



Joel Osteen (4m)



T.D. Jakes (3.8m)



Tim Tebow (2m)



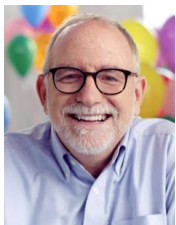
Steven Furtick (1m)



Christine Caine (900k)



Rick Warren (786k)



Bob Goff (539k)



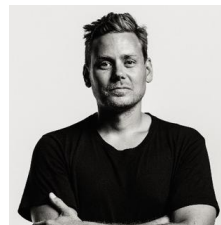
Beth Moore (424k)



Ravi Zacharias (272k)



Bill Johnson (214k)



John Mark Comer (43k)



Mike Bickle (39k)



Jon Tyson (10k)



Kanye West (27m)



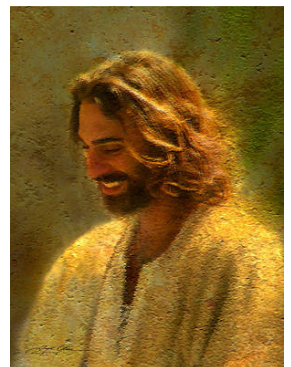
Kylie Jenner (158m)



Cristiano Ronaldo (197m)



The Pope (6.5m)



Jesus (2.3 billion)  
And that's with  
NO SOCIAL MEDIA!

#### - **INFLUENCE...WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?**

- **Flavorless salt is good for nothing...***Your lives are like salt among the people. But if you, like salt, become bland, how can your 'saltiness' be restored? Flavorless salt is good for nothing and will be thrown out and trampled on by others. Your lives light up the world. Let others see your light from a distance, for how can you hide a city that stands on a hilltop? And who would light a lamp and then hide it in an obscure place? Instead, it's placed where everyone in the house can benefit from its light. So don't hide your light! Let it shine brightly before others, so that the*

*commendable things you do will shine as light upon them, and then they will give their praise to your Father in heaven.* (Matt 5:13-16 TPT)

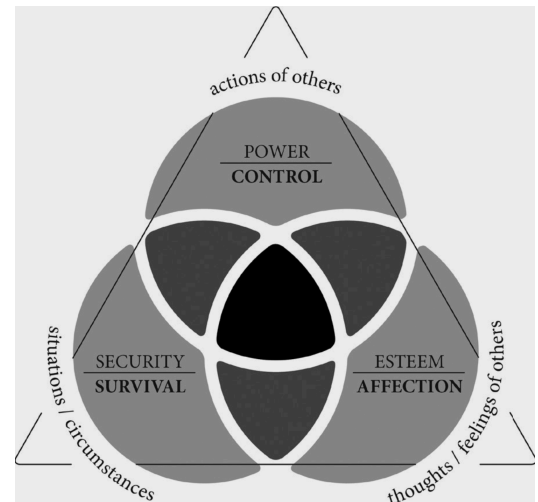
- **Be the salt! Be the light!** Most translations say, “You ARE,” not, “you are LIKE” salt. **I don’t want to be like salt, I want to BE salt!**
  - **Salt!** ~ The Passion Translation of Matthew 5 points to the fact that salt influences *everything* it comes in contact with. It’s all about the flavor. The most obvious use for salt in cooking is for seasoning. Lots of people use salt as an afterthought to season food, but it is also important to use it during cooking to bring out the flavors of a certain dish or to make bland foods tastier...Salt is also commonly used to prevent foods from tasting bitter. **Interestingly adding a pinch of salt to dark chocolate, will actually make it sweeter, not saltier.** (Ps 34:8)
  - **Light!** ~ **The light isn’t our persona, but manifests in what we are “doing,” or rather, what Jesus is doing through us.** This is tricky. We do commendable things...when we do this, we shine brightly...the effect of this shining benefits the people in the room...as a result, they turn their attention, not to the light, but to Our Father in Heaven! (1 Pet 4:10-11)
- **Influence sometimes is defined as...** the “ability to produce an effect without apparent force or direct authority.” Some people, because of their personalities, have greater influence than others. We are spiritual people and have been taught by Jesus to exude more **influence** for the good of the gospel. (Ps 31:19)
- **One dictionary defines influence as...** “a spiritual force or moral force, which, knowingly or unknowingly, affects the actions and behaviors of others, consciously or unconsciously.” So really, we must ask ourselves is not, “Am I being influenced?” but rather “What (or who?) is influencing me?” (John 15)
- **Authenticity and reach...** What does influence look like in the Kingdom of God? It’s about being real and allowing the reality of who you are to touch whatever it wants to. Real people don’t try to control or manage their influence, they just let it manifest, undaunted. In other words, you give the Holy Spirit your permission to call the shots, aim your influence and empower your fruit to be **as strong as it needs to her to accomplish all the Father wants to see happen.**
  - *God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.* (Eph. 3:20 MESSAGE)
- **Jon Tyson**, in *The Creative Minority*, points out, “The word “influence” is derived from a Latin root meaning “to flow.” This “flowing” does not connote power, coercion or control, it suggests **effortlessness**. We want to influence people by being ourselves, where such creativity comes out of our community that people are drawn to it. **Redemptive participation** means that we do not hate the world, we are not protesting it, we are participating in it with a vision of the way of Jesus.
  - The word influence (Latin-influentia) describes **something that flows in and causes changes**, usually a force that is imperceptible or hidden. **Influencers** are people living in proximity to ordinary people who are looking for some source of wisdom, discernment, power, truth, and other qualities that begin a transformative work on their lives, where they live, work, and play.
- **THE VINE, THE BRANCH AND FRUIT**
  - *I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing...If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.* (John 15:5, 7 NIV)

Influence ≠ Control    Influence = Fruit

- Our American culture disproportionately lifts up the person in front, the person with the mic. People seem to think that there is influence in “the mic.” It’s not all about **prominence** (being important or famous), but more about being **pervasive** (spreading widely throughout an area or a group of people) in culture. **The root word for influence is the same for the word influenza.** Our assignment is to “infect” the world around us!
  - Remember, influence used to be understood as a contagious infection. In similar manner, as we see in the Song of Songs, **people of godly influence possess epidemic adoration.** Infused with God’s love, their passion is **contagious** and affects everyone around them. The same can be true of your relationship with God. When you are under the influence of His love, others will be attracted. What an awesome byproduct of intimacy! ~ **William Ford III**, Created For Influence: Transforming Culture From Where You Are
- **What you behold is what you become...** Godly influence on earth does not come from seeking crowds but rather is a byproduct of seeking God. You attract people to God when they see your passion for the object of your gaze. He has become the object of your utmost affection. You in turn introduce them to your Lord, whose cross has changed your life. ~ **Francis Frangipane**
- The person with the mic can only **inspire** you, not **influence** you. If you want to really influence someone, it will typically happen over a cup of coffee or a meal together. **That’s the Jesus model of influence.** “Come, follow me!”
- **Learning to identify fruit**
  - **Identifying fruit requires pinpointing where we are results-minded.** We can begin by asking questions like these: “Where in your life are you trying to produce an outcome? Where in your life are you focused, anxious, or worried about producing a specific result?”

- **Thomas Keating**, wrote about what he calls the “three emotional programs for happiness.” Joshua Houston created “**The Triangle**” to illustrate what Keating was describing. Here’s a quick breakdown of how it works:

- **At subconscious levels** in all of us, we have **three cravings** fighting for our perceived happiness. These cravings attempt to convince us that if we can master these three areas of our lives, we will be happy.
- **The first area is what Keating called Power/Control.** It argues that if you can simply make the people in your life do what you want them to, if the people in your life would just live, speak, and make decisions how you would like them to, you will be happy. If, on the other hand, people are not living how you would prefer them to, you will experience frustration, stress, anxiety, and fear.
- **The second area is what Keating called Security/Survival.** It argues that if you can make situations and circumstances turn out how you want them to, if situations will just end up how you think they should, you will be happy. If, on the other hand, situations do not turn out in your favor, you will experience frustration, stress, anxiety, and fear.
- **The third area Keating called Esteem/Affection.** It asserts that if you can make people think and feel about you how you want them to, if people will just come to know and understand you how you would prefer, you will be happy. If, on the other hand, others do not perceive you as you would like them to, you will experience frustration, stress, anxiety, and fear.
- **Joshua Houston** say, “**Deep within us all is a potent longing for acceptance from those around us.** If we think people like us, or at least if we think people respect or think highly of us, we wind up in



happiness...We end up rationalizing that if the majority of people we know think well of us, especially the Christians, we're probably doing something right. Unfortunately, it's just not true."

"I am not what I think I am and I am not what you think I am.

I am what I think you think I am."

Charles Horton Cooley

- Think about your family members, your coworkers, your friends, your acquaintances... How much do you need others to do and say what you think they should in order for you to keep your calm? Think about your job, your finances, your health, your possessions...**How much do you need the situations in your life to be "working" for you to remain composed in life?**
- **The Triangle** reveals precisely every area of our lives where we are fruit-minded. **The Triangle is completely and utterly about controlling results.** It is about manufacturing outcomes. It's not the life you want to live! For many, success is nothing more than mastering the Triangle, and the most successful people in their minds are the ones who have mastered it well. Unfortunately, they are using control to get the results they want.

## - YOUR INFLUENCE IS REAL

- **To live is to influence.** Whenever and wherever our lives interact with others (at home, at work, on-line, or in our community), we have influence. We change lives. We affect people every single day with the words we say, the looks on our face, the actions we choose, and the decisions we make. —Joshua Becker
- The bestselling devotional, **Jesus Calling**, recently encouraged its readers with this... "As you live in close contact with Me, the Light of My Presence filters through you to bless others." **Sarah Young**, *Jesus Calling*. How can we allow the presence of Jesus to position us for influencing people toward restoration of relationship with God?
  - **Salt for flavor...**There is a balance; too much salt turns it bitter, too little makes things bland; just the right amount enhances it. We lose our saltiness when we disconnect from the source...Jesus.
  - **Love, even when it's undeserved...**When you love those who don't deserve it, you do what God did; He first loved us before we ever loved Him. Love those that don't deserve it, because neither did we. *"Our love for others is our grateful response to the love God first demonstrated to us."* (1 John 4:19 TPT) Love well. You never know when the Holy Spirit will chase down the least likely candidate for the kingdom through you.
  - **Jesus is dying to influence people through you...**No matter where you are in your relationship with Jesus, you have the privilege of experiencing The Holy Spirit work through you on behalf of those whom the Father is drawing to himself. Your influence is not based upon your Christian expertise, but a direct result of who you are connected to!
  - **The world is filled with disillusioned and unsatisfied fruit-lovers...**When the love of God flows through you, it's like dangling fruit in front of famished "fruities." We think they are looking for the influence that comes from being a Christian. What they really want is to taste some really beautiful, plump, juicy fruit!