



## BE THE CHANGE: Your Influence in the Workplace

### Week 3

You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father. (Matt. 5:14–16 NLT-SE)

#### - A LITTLE ABOUT SPHERES OF INFLUENCE

- People can be influenced by what we say or what we do, but our greatest, most lasting influence comes when they connect with **who we are**. When they really see who we are, what they are seeing is our “light shining.” (Matt 5:14-16)
  - <sup>26</sup> For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup> And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have **put on Christ**, like putting on new clothes. (Gal. 3:26–27 NLT-SE)
  - <sup>13</sup> Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see. Don’t participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness, or in sexual promiscuity and immoral living, or in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Instead, **clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ**. And don’t let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires. (Rom. 13:13–14 NLT-SE)
  - <sup>12</sup> Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must **clothe yourselves** with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. (Col. 3:12–13 NLT-SE)
- The most powerful influence in our lives comes when people engage with our hearts. When they see our hearts, they see what or who we worship. **Jon Tyson** describes the “altar of our heart” with this equation:

The Desire of Our Heart + Our Sacrifices and Offerings = Worship

- The **parameters of our influence** are dependent upon three things:
  - The **integrity of our connection** with Jesus, the Vine.
    - <sup>5</sup> “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...<sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. (John 15:5, 7 NIV)
    - Like **Miranda** said last Sunday, “When we let Jesus have influence over our lives, we will have a beautiful influence on each others lives!”
  - Our **willingness to allow fruit to manifest** in and through us.
    - Live a cheerful life, without complaining or division among yourselves. For then **you will be seen as innocent, faultless, and pure children of God**, even though you live in the midst of a brutal and perverse culture.
      - <sup>14</sup> Live a cheerful life, without complaining or division among yourselves. <sup>15</sup> For then you will be seen as innocent, I faultless, and pure children of God, even though you live in the midst of a brutal and perverse culture. For you will appear among them as **shining lights** in the universe, <sup>16</sup> offering them the words of eternal life. I haven’t labored among you for nothing, for **your lives are the fruit of my ministry** and will be my glorious boast at the unveiling of Christ! (Phil. 2:14-16 TPT)
  - The **receptivity of the hearts** of those we are who are in our sphere of influence.

- <sup>13</sup> But we will not boast beyond limits, but will boast only with regard to the area of influence God assigned to us, to reach even to you. <sup>14</sup> For we are not overextending ourselves, as though we did not reach you. For we were the first to come all the way to you with the gospel of Christ. <sup>15</sup> We do not boast beyond limit in the labors of others. **But our hope is that as your faith increases, our area of influence among you may be greatly enlarged,** (2 Cor. 10:13–15 ESV)

## - WHAT'S UNIQUE ABOUT WORKPLACE RELATIONSHIPS?

- According to the Gallup Organization, **people who have a best friend at work are seven times more likely to be engaged in their jobs.** And it doesn't have to be a best friend: **Gallup** found that people who simply had a good friend in the workplace are more likely to be satisfied.
- **What does a good workplace relationship look like?** There are several characteristics that people who study workplace psychology say make up good, healthy working relationships:
  - **Trust...**This is the foundation of every good relationship. When you trust your team and colleagues, you form a powerful bond that helps you to work and communicate more effectively. If you trust the people you work with, you can be open and honest in your thoughts and actions, and you don't have to waste time and energy "watching your back."
  - **Mutual Respect...**When you respect the people who you work with, you value their input and ideas, and they value yours. Working together, you can develop solutions based on your collective insight, wisdom and creativity.
  - **Mindfulness...**This means taking responsibility for your words and actions. Those who are mindful are careful and attend to what they say, and they don't let their own negative emotions impact the people around them.
  - **Welcoming Diversity...**People with good relationships not only accept diverse people and opinions, but they welcome them. For instance, when your friends and colleagues offer different opinions from yours, you take the time to consider what they have to say, and factor their insights into your decision-making.
  - **Open Communication** – We communicate all day, whether we're sending emails and IMs, or meeting face to face. The better and more effectively you communicate with those around you, the richer your relationships will be. All good relationships depend on open, honest communication.
- **Sound a little weak?** Let's compare this to the **transformative influence** the Word of God says we can walk in through a significant connection with Jesus.

## - THE WORKPLACE: A PERFECT BIRTHPLACE FOR REVIVAL

- **Charles Finney**
  - As a **young attorney**, **Charles Finney** found many references to the Bible in his law books. On October 10, 1821, **at the age of 21**, he decided he would settle these questions of his salvation and make his peace with God. He said, "No words can express the wonderful love that was shed abroad in my heart. I wept aloud with joy and love and...I bellowed out the unutterable gushing of my heart. These waves came over me and over me and over me one after another until I recollect I cried out, "I shall die if these waves continue to pass over me..Lord, I cannot bear any more."
  - **Finney's strange preaching style...**
    - He was given the responsibility to preach in two small villages in New York. At one of these villages, **Evan Mills**, he would not only preach on Sunday, but weeknights. The people enjoyed his sermons but when he concluded that they had never experienced the new birth and that they would not make a decision to accept Christ, he gave them an **ultimatum** evening in his message: **"Now I must know your minds, and I want all of you who will give your pledge to make peace with God immediately, to rise up; all of you who**

**resolved not to become Christians and wish me to understand so and Christ to understand so, remain sitting."**

- "They looked at one another and at me, and all sat still, just as I expected. He spoke again, **'Then you are committed. You have taken your stand. You have rejected Christ and his Gospel... You may remember as long as you live that you have thus publicly committed yourselves against the Saviour.'**"
- Salvation comes to a **Cotton Mill in Utica**, New York, in late 1825.
  - **Finney says the most amazing display of God's power in his life** came one day as he went to visit a cotton factory at New York Mills, a small town near **Utica, New York**. Prior to his visit to the factory, more than 500 converts were reported saved in the short time he had been in Utica.
  - As Finney walked into the Cotton Mill, one of the opponents of the meeting, a young lady employee, saw him. Looking at her co-employee, she began to laugh. Some writers say she made a cynical remark about Finney and his meeting. **In a spirit of prayer, Charles Finney simply looked at this young lady without saying a word.** As he kept looking at her, being grieved by her criticism, the lady stopped working as she had broken her thread. She became so upset that she couldn't repair the thread and start again. The Spirit of God mightily convicted her of her sin to the point that she began to weep. Soon her companions were convicted and began to weep. A chain reaction occurred as hundreds began to be overcome by their lost condition.
  - The factory owner, seeing this, was deeply moved himself and said. **"Stop the mill, and let the people attend to religion, for it is far more important that our souls be saved than the factory run."**
- **The truth:** 97% of Christians will **never** be in full-time ministry.
  - When people see and know your heart, **a door opens for them** to the one you are connected to...Jesus. Last week, **Miranda** said, "When we seek to influence, we influence out of our connection and our heart, which is based upon the price we have fixed on whatever or whomever we are seeking to influence in our lives."
  - **Everything you say or do** becomes a possible connection for people *in* your life to your *source* of life. It also opens the door for divine reformation. Make no mistake, **Reformation is coming!**
  - **The closer you allow people to get** to you and your connection to Jesus, the more influence you will have in their lives.

## - HOW TO SHARE YOUR FAITH AND NOT GET FIRED

- Make some kind of **intentional move** to let Jesus have your heart, and not just for *your* sake, but for the sake of others as well. Phil. 2:3-5; Gal. 5:13)
  - <sup>4</sup> *The one thing I ask of the LORD— the thing I seek most— is to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, delighting in the LORD's perfections and meditating in his Temple...*<sup>8</sup> **My heart has heard you say, "Come and talk with me." And my heart responds, "LORD, I am coming."** (Psa. 27:4, 8 NLT-SE)
  - **May the Lord lead your hearts** into a full understanding and expression of the love of God and the patient endurance that comes from Christ. (2 Th. 3:5 NLT-SE)
- **Take a risk.** Allow the people you work with to **come close enough** to you to be touched (influenced) by your heart. (Col. 3:23-24)
- When you see Jesus touching their heart, through your heart, **encourage them to walk with you**, as you walk with God. *You should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.* (1 Cor. 11:1 NLT-SE)
- Whatever you do, invite your heart to begin to **honor** the people you work with! (Rom. 10:12-20)

## - WHAT KIND OF FRUIT ARE YOU WANTING TO SEE AT WORK?

- Typically, we keep our expectations pretty narrow and specific...**we want conversion.** (Matt. 16:24)

- The **fruit of your influence** in the lives of your co-workers can be much broader.
  - Fruit points, not to an event, but to a **process**.
    - Your life is continually “preaching” a message to those around you. “Preach the gospel at all times and when necessary, use words.” ~ St. Francis of Assisi
    - As **Miranda** said last Sunday, “We are the Body of Christ, on display for the world to see...and it is beautiful!”
  - Here is some **fruit you may look** for as a result of your influence in the lives of others...
    - **Attitudes** begin to change. (Rom. 12:1-2)
    - **Questions** start to arise. (Rom. 3:23-25)
    - **Discouragement** seems to lift off their lives. (John 16:35)
    - **Hunger** for relationship begins to get stirred up in their hearts.
    - **The fruit of the Spirit** (Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control) begins to manifest in and through them. (Gal. 5:22-23)
    - **AND ALL THIS CAN HAPPEN BEFORE THEY EXPERIENCE CONVERSION!**
- **Question:** Are we seeking to influence people with the goal that they look like us, or that they look like Jesus?

## God Of Revival

Brian Johnson & Jenn Johnson

We see what you can do, oh God of wonders  
Your power has no end  
The things You've done before in greater measure  
You will do again

Cause there's no prison wall You can't break through, no  
Mountain You can't move, all things are possible  
There's no broken body you can't raise, no  
Soul that You can't save, all things are possible

The darkest night, You can light it up  
You can light it up, oh God of revival  
Let hope arise, death is overcome  
You've already won, oh God of revival

You rose in victory and now You're seated  
forever on the throne  
So why should my heart fear what You've defeated  
I will trust in You alone

Come awaken Your people, come awaken Your city  
Oh God of revival, pour it out, pour it out  
Every stronghold will crumble, hear the chains hit the ground  
Oh God of revival, pour it out, pour it out

Oh, oh oh oh, oh oh oh  
God of revival