

THE POWER OF INFLUENCE: Part 1

Midwest City Free Methodist Church

Winning the Approval of God - *Galatians 1:1-10*

- I. Introductions to Paul's Letter to the Galatians
 - A. The Apostle Paul under attack
 1. There was opposition to Paul's apostleship
 - a. Peter's description of an apostle - *Acts 1:21-22*
 - b. Paul's defense of His apostleship - *I Corinthians 15:3-11*
 2. There was opposition to Paul's message
 - a. People were turning to a different gospel - v.6
 - b. People were confused and misled - v.7
 - B. The Gospel of Jesus Christ under attack
 1. The message is more crucial than the messenger - vv.8-9
 2. The approval of God is more vital than the approval of people - v.10
- II. The Blessings of Being a Servant of Christ
 - A. Strength from knowing who we are - **identity**
 1. We have internal anchors to God - faith, hope, love - *I Corinthians 13*
 2. We have resources greater than our own - Holy Spirit - *Romans 8:26-27*
 3. We have liberty from sin and evil - freedom - *Romans 6:1-7*
 4. We have ownership of our mission - ministers - *I Corinthians 5:16-19*
 5. We have purpose and meaning - destiny - *Ephesians 2:9-10*
 - B. Strength from knowing where we are going - **vision**
 1. Past - where we were - the forming place - Paul's Background
 2. Present - where we are the acting place - Paul's Ministry
 3. Future - where we want to be - the planning place - Paul's Mission
"Let the past guide the future while the future instructs the present." -Calvin Miller
 - C. Strength from knowing we are loved - **intimacy**
 1. God pays a great price for us - valuable - *I Corinthians 6:19-20*
 2. God calls us to be His people - chosen - *I Peter 2:9-10*
 3. God loves us with an everlasting love - eternal - *Jeremiah 31:3*
 4. God desires good things for us - blessed - *Luke 11:211-13*
 5. God fills us with His Spirit - assurance - *Ephesians 1:13*
- III. The Responsibilities of Being a Servant of Christ
 - A. Every Christian is called to witness - *marturia*
 1. We witness a supernatural orientation - Kingdom of God
 2. We witness a awareness of evil - sin, world, devil
 3. We witness a conception of truth - revelation of Jesus
 4. We witness an acceptance of authority - divine providence
 5. We witness a concern for people - value of humanity
 - B. Every Christian is called to service - *diakonia*
 1. We serve by praying - intercession
 2. We serve by listening - attention
 3. we serve by helping - action
 4. we serve by loving - compassion
 5. We serve by teaching - education
 6. We serve by caring - supervision

THE POWER OF INFLUENCE: Part 1

Midwest City Free Methodist Church

Questions

1. *What did Jesus Christ do for Paul, the Galatians, and us (v.4)?*
2. *What blessings are available today (v.3)?*
3. *What does God receive from our rescue (v.5)?*
4. *Why should the Galatians listen to Paul?*
5. *What kind of gospel was being preached?*
6. *What happens to those who promote another gospel?*
7. *Who has been an apostle Paul in your life?*
8. *Did he/she ever need to correct your theology?*
9. *How are you at witnessing for God?*
10. *How are you a servant for God?*

Books on Influence - Part 1

Involvement, John Stott

The Empowered Leader, Calvin Miller

The Apostle's Inner Life, Andrew Murry

Problems of Christian Discipleship, J. Oswald Sanders

THE POWER OF INFLUENCE: Part 2

Midwest City Free Methodist Church

Identifying Destructive Influences - *Galatians 1:11-2:10*

I. Summary of Paul's Calling

A. The Gospel that Paul Preached

1. Received by a revelation from Jesus Christ - *v.12*
2. Called by the grace of God - *v.15*
 - a. Out of advanced Judaism - fanatic for the law
 - b. Out of the extreme zeal - persecutor of the Church
3. Retreated to the deserts of Arabia - *v.17*
 - a. To reflect on the tremendous revelation and responsibility
 - b. To speak with God before speaking to people
 - c. To identify and correct his destructive influence
4. Confirmed by the ministry to the Gentiles - *v.7*
5. Accepted by the Apostles - Peter, James, John - *v.9*

B. The Life that Paul Lived

1. He was a person aware of a special task - *v.2*
2. He was a person who was dramatically changed - *v.23*
3. He was a person who gave authority its due respect - *vv.2-4*
4. He was a person who refused to be overawed - *v.6*
5. He was a person concerned with humanity - *v.10*

II. Identifying Destructive Influences

A. Negative Beliefs about Ourselves

1. God does not really care about me
2. I am a worthless person. God will never love me
3. I will not be able to change
4. I will always be a failure
5. Other people will not like me or believe me

B. Distorted Values in Our Lives

1. How we spend time, energy, money and resources
2. What is really important in life - people, pleasure, profession, pride

C. Spiritual Lack

1. Lack of knowledge and understanding of biblical foundations
2. Lack of nourishment - spiritual input
3. Lack of giving - spiritual output
4. Lack of balance - burnout, rust out, thrown out
5. Lack of commitment - unsundered to Christ
6. Lack of power - unopened to the Holy Spirit
7. Lack of fellowship - unconnected to the body of Christ

D. Other Destructive Influences

1. Sin - the big one
2. Bad attitudes - overflow of mental/emotional conflict
3. Bad habits - overflow of distorted values
4. Bad company - wrong people at the wrong time
5. Bad environment - wrong place at the wrong time

THE POWER OF INFLUENCE: Part 2

Midwest City Free Methodist Church

III. How Do I Rate Me?

A. Personal - Spiritual Worship and Intimacy

1. Am I getting anything out of worship?
2. Do my personality and attitude show I am a Christian?
3. Do I smile with a sincere spirit?
4. Am I encouraging and affirming others?
5. Is there measurable change?
6. Do I have a goal for sharing me faith?

B. Family - Love and Unity of Purpose

1. Is my spouse happy?
2. Are my children having fun?
3. Is my family growing closer to God?
4. Do I spend one-on-one time with family members?
5. Do I pray with and for my family?
6. Do I play and rest with my family?

C. Physical and Emotional - Discipline and Security

1. Do I get enough sleep? Exercise? Nutrition?
2. When was my last physical?
3. Do I set goals and directions and stay on course?
4. Do I rejoice when others rejoice and cry when others cry?
5. Is there at least one fun thing I'm pretty good at?

IV. Turning on the Light

A. Basic Steps to Change

1. Ask the lord to give you courage to be honest
2. Give the Lord permission to shine His light on your thought, feelings, and actions
3. Examine your consciousness - the interaction of God in your life and your response to Him
4. Examine your conscience - the depth of your heart, mind and soul

B. Basic Beliefs for Change

1. All your sins are forgiven: past, present, future - *Colossians 2:13-14*
2. You become a child of God - *John 1:12; Romans 8:15*
3. You receive eternal life - *John 5:24*
4. You are delivered from Satan's domain and transferred into the Kingdom of God - *Col 1:13*
5. Christ dwells within you - *Revelation 3:20*
6. You become a new creation - *II Corinthians 5:17*
7. You are declared righteous by God - *II Corinthians 5:21*
8. You have a love relationship with God - *I John 4:9-11*
9. You live by the Spirit of God - *Galatians 5:16-25*

THE POWER OF INFLUENCE: Part 3

Midwest City Free Methodist Church

Challenging Inconsistent Behavior - Galatians 2:11-21

- I. Paul Confronts Peter for His Inconsistency
 - A. The Compromise of Peter at the Agape Feast
 - 1. He came to Antioch and ate with the Gentile believers - *v.12*
 - 2. He separated himself from the Gentiles out of fear of the Jews - *v.12*
 - 3. He influenced other Jews to separate - *v.13*
 - 4. His hypocrisy even affected Barnabas - *v.13*
 - B. The Challenge of Paul to the Jewish Believers
 - 1. He opposed Peter face to face - *vv.11,14*
 - 2. He used logic to support a biblical truth - *v.14*
 - a. Observance of the law cannot make a person right with God
 - b. Both Jew and Gentile come to God by grace
 - c. Why then must Gentiles observe Jewish law?
 - 3. He states that faith is the core element of following Christ - *v.16*
- II. The Effects of Spiritual Inconsistency
 - A. Spiritual Disorder - hypocrisy, rebellion, compromise, boredom, impotency, fear
 - B. Physical Disorder - tension, stress, fatigue, illness
 - C. Emotional Disorder - guilt, condemnation, anger, discouragement, bitterness
 - D. Social Disorder - criticism, cynicism, jealousy, strife
- III. Challenging Spiritual Inconsistency
 - A. Remembering Your Calling
 - 1. You and your possessions belong to God - *Ecclesiastes 5:19*
 - 2. You have identity in Jesus Christ - *Galatians 2:20-21*
 - 3. You have a reason to live - purpose - *Romans 8:28-30*
 - 4. You have a commitment to fulfill - *I Corinthians 6:19-20*
 - B. Renew Your Mind
 - 1. Learn to think like Christ - WWJD - *Philippians 4:8-9*
 - 2. Learn to listen to the Holy Spirit - *John 14:25-26*
 - 3. Learn to study and investigate - *Joshua 1:7-9*
 - 4. Learn to ask questions - *I John 4:1-3*
 - 5. Learn to apply knowledge to life - *II Timothy 3:14-16*
 - C. Refresh Your Spirit
 - 1. Memorize the Word of God - *Psalms 119:97-104*
 - 2. Pray the Word of God - *Psalms 119:25-32*
 - 3. Sing the Word of God - *Psalms 119:172*
 - 4. Speak the Word of God - *Psalms 119:11-16*
 - 5. Study the Word of God - *Psalms 119:105*
 - D. Rebuild Your Life
 - 1. Live a repentant life - full of forgiveness
 - 2. Live a disciplined life - full of grace
 - 3. Live a relational life - full of love
 - 4. Live a submitted life - full of humility
 - 5. Live a spiritual life - full of God

THE POWER OF INFLUENCE: Part 3

Midwest City Free Methodist Church

Questions

1. *When did Peter first start “fellowshipping” with the Gentile Christians (Acts 10)?*
2. *Why does Peter reverse course in Antioch (vv.11-13)?*
3. *How do you think Peter felt about Barnabas (v.13)?*
4. *Do you confront inconsistent behavior?*
5. *Have you dealt with hypocrisy in your life?*
6. *What must die in order for Christ to live (vv.19-20)?*

Books on Influence - Part 3

Ordering Your Private World, Gordon MacDonald

Renewing Your Spirit, Gordon MacDonald

Discipline of Grace, Jerry Bridges

THE POWER OF INFLUENCE: Part 4

Midwest City Free Methodist Church

Faith and Influence - Galatians 3:1-29

- I. The Covenant with God through Faith
 - A. The Gift of God
 - 1. The Holy Spirit came by faith - *v.2*
 - 2. Signs, wonders and miracles came by faith - *v.5*
 - 3. Christians begin and end their life by faith - *c.3*
 - 4. Christians are justified by faith - *v.8*
 - B. The Law of God
 - 1. The function of the law is to define sin - *v.22*
 - 2. The law did not set aside the covenant of God - *v.17*
 - 3. The law leads us to Christ that we might be justified by faith - *v.24*
- II. How to Obtain Faith - Jeremy Taylor - *Romans 10:17*
 - A. Have a humble, willing and teachable mind
 - B. Remove all prejudices and love for everything which may be contradicted by faith
 - C. Learn to seek God in prayer
 - D. Consider God's omnipotence and infinite wisdom
 - E. Avoid all curious inquiry into particulars and mysteries
 - 1. True faith is full of great simplicity
 - 2. True faith employs trust and patience
 - F. Listen to the Word of God - regularly, intently, purposefully
- III. Faith and Influence
 - A. Acts of Faith - *Colossians 1:21-23*
 - 1. To believe the revelation of God to us from His Word
 - 2. To believe nothing concerning God apart from His Word
 - 3. To give ourselves completely to Jesus Christ
 - 4. To believe all God's promises in His Word
 - 5. To profess publicly the Lordship of Christ
 - 6. To pray without doubting, ceasing, or weariness
 - B. Signs of Faith
 - 1. Earnest and heartfelt prayer - **the Jerusalem Church** - *Acts 4:23-31*
 - 2. Sincere and humble service - **the Seven** - *Acts 6:1-7*
 - 3. Reverent and intimate worship - **the Gentiles** - *Acts 10:44-48*
 - 4. Peaceful and confident submission - **the Council** - *Acts 15:1-31*
 - 5. Strong and bold witness - **the Philippian jail** - *Acts 16:16-40*
 - C. The Impact of Faith
 - 1. You live in the Presence of God - **holiness**
 - 2. You release the power of God - **anointing**
 - 3. You seek the kingdom of God - **priority**
 - 4. You rest in the love of God - **peace**

THE POWER OF INFLUENCE: Part 4

Midwest City Free Methodist Church

Questions

1. *Why would anyone revert from freedom to legalism?*
2. *Who are the children of Abraham?*
3. *What does Christ do for us (v.13)?*
4. *Can the law give life (v.21)?*
5. *How has your faith liberated you?*
6. *What motivates your spiritual life?*
7. *Can you pass this motivation on?*
8. *What is contagious faith? How do you get it? How do you give it?*
9. *Whose life of faith influenced your conversion? Your discipleship? Your ministry?*

Books on Influence - Part 4

Holy Living, Jeremy Taylor

You Are A Miracle, Ken Houts

THE POWER OF INFLUENCE: Part 6

Midwest City Free Methodist Church

Freedom in Christ - Galatians 5:1-26

I. Paul Proclaims Freedom

A. The Value of Christ

1. Christians are justified by Christ not the law - *v.4*
2. Christians are righteous by faith not works - *v.5*
3. Christians are obedient through love not fear - *v.6*

B. The Power of the Judaizers

1. Promoted legalism above love - *v.7*
2. Preached law instead of grace - *v.4*

C. The Responsibility of Freedom

1. Free to serve one another in love - *v.13*
2. Free to live in the Spirit of God - *v.16*
 - a. Putting away the acts of the sinful nature - *vv.19-21*
 - b. Putting on the fruit of the Spirit - *vv.22-24*
3. Free to keep in step with the Spirit - *v.25*

II. Freedom and Influence

A. The Abuse of Freedom - choosing the sin nature - *vv.19-21*

1. Sexual immorality - fornication; adultery
2. Impurity - unclean; wild; unpruned; unsifted
3. Debauchery - readiness for any pleasure; wantonness
4. Idolatry - worship of an idol or thing
5. Witchcraft - “the use of drugs” (literal translation); poisoning
6. Hatred - hostile; violent temper
7. Discord - strife; rivalry; competition
8. Jealousy - desire to have what someone else has; covet
9. Fits of rage - uncontrolled temper; anger
10. Selfish ambition - “desire for office”; self-seeking for pay
11. Dissensions - standing apart; coming apart
12. Factions - heretical divisions; to choose sides
13. Envy - “grief at someone else’s good”; embittered mind
14. Drunkenness - over-consumption of wine
15. Orgies - carousing; unrestrained revelry; degenerated enjoyment

B. The Glory of Freedom - choosing the Spirit - *vv.22-23*

1. Spiritual Growth - our relationship with God
 - a. Love (GK *agape*) - unconditional love; unconquerable benevolence
 - b. Joy (GK *Chara*) - delight; gladness; benefit
 - c. Peace (GK *eirene*) - serenity; security; tranquility; shalom
2. Communal Growth - our relationship with others
 - a. Patience (GK *makrothumia*) - persistence; in regards to people
 - b. Kindness (GK *chrestotes*) - sweetness; helpful; generous
 - c. Goodness (GK *agathosune*) - “virtue equipped at every point”
3. Personal Growth - our relationship with self
 - a. Faithfulness (GK *pistis*) - trustworthiness; reliable; dependable
 - b. Gentleness (GK *praotes*) - teachable; considerate; submissive to God
 - c. Self-control (GK *krateia*) - self-mastery; discipline; balanced

THE POWER OF INFLUENCE: Part 6

Midwest City Free Methodist Church

C. The Impact of Freedom

1. Free to love God with heart, mind, soul and strength
2. Free to love one's neighbor
3. Free to pursue virtue and eradicate vice
4. Free to attend the inner life of the soul
5. Free to imitate Jesus Christ
6. Free to take up the cross of Christ
7. Free to deny self-will and follow Jesus
8. Free to be united with God in spirit and truth

Questions

1. *What is a "yoke of slavery" (v.1)?*
2. *How do you feel about law breakers; i.e. "drivers who are speeding"?*
3. *How do you measure people? What spiritual yardstick do you use?*
4. *Where is the balance in freedom (v.13)?*
5. *How have Christians abused their freedom?*
6. *Why are the flesh and the spirit in conflict (v.17)?*
7. *Which types of spiritual fruit are growing in your life?*
8. *Fruit inspection - identify the fruit of the Spirit most evident in the person next to you.*

Books on Influence - Part 6

Fruits of the Spirit, Charles Hembler

Spiritual Companions, Peter Toon

How To Be A Christian Without Being Religious, Fritz Ridenour

THE POWER OF INFLUENCE: Part 7

Midwest City Free Methodist Church

Doing Good - The Power of Influence - Galatians 6:1-18

I. Paul's Practical Spirituality

A. The Power to help one another

1. Restoring those who have sinned - v.1
2. Guarding yourself from temptation - v.1
3. Carrying each other's burdens - v.2
4. Regarding yourself in terms of humility - v.3
5. Learning to discipline yourself to help others - vv.4-5
6. Blessing your instructor for his/her teaching
7. Pleasing God by sowing into the Spirit - v.8
8. Doing good to all people when you can - v.10

B. The Center of the Matter

1. The Law does not save one from persecution - v.12
2. The Law does not win the approval of God - v.13
3. The Law does not make one a new creation in Christ - vv.14-15

C. The Cross of Jesus Christ

1. Crucifixion of your will, desires, values and power
2. Crucifixion of the world's will, desires, values and power

II. Practical Sainthood

A. Spiritual Audit - from *Leadership; Vol. XIX, No. 1*

1. Am I content with who I am becoming?
2. Am I becoming less religious and more spiritual?
3. Does my family recognize the authenticity of my spirituality?
4. Do I have a quiet center to my life?
5. Have I defined my unique ministry?
6. Is my prayer life improving?
7. Have I maintained a genuine awe of God?
8. Is my humility genuine?
9. Is my "spiritual feeding" the right diet for me?
10. Do I have joy?

B. Spiritual Influence - Hudson Taylor, 1879

1. Improve the character of your work
2. Deepen the devotions, piety, and success of those around you
3. Remove the stumbling blocks - if possible
4. Oil the wheels where they stick
5. Amend whatever is defective
6. Supplement what is lacking

THE POWER OF INFLUENCE: Part 7

Midwest City Free Methodist Church

C. Spiritual Principles

1. Vision - seeing the past, present, and future come together
2. Trust - believing and connecting those around you
3. Commitment - living within defined boundaries
4. Creativity - capturing newness, boldness, timing
5. Integrity - forming a life on truth and vulnerability
6. Diversity - exploring the difference in life
7. Learning - gaining knowledge, experience and skill

Questions

1. *How can you help a friend caught in sin (v.1)?*
2. *What are the motives of false teachers (vv.12-13)?*
3. *What is boasting in the cross of Christ (v.14)?*
4. *Do you bear any "marks of Jesus" (v.17)?*
5. *Do you improve the situations you encounter?*
6. *What was the hardest question on the spiritual audit?*
7. *What spiritual principles do you need to work on in your life?*

Books on Influence - Part 7

Spiritual Leadership, J. Oswald Sanders

Integrity, Kevin Mannoia