

# Our Lives Influence Others!

Sunday, June 19 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, June 20 at 7 PM

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity – 2016

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: No one is an island – *separate and isolated from others*; instead, we are **seen** and **heard** and **read** by others – *whether we realize it or not!* Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth, “You yourselves are our letter... known and read by all” (2Co 3:2 ESV).

So, like it or not, *our lives do influence others!* Such influence can be ♦bad or good, ♦negative or positive, ♦for God or against God; therefore, today, we will ♦consider some Biblical examples of influence, ♦rejoice in God’s forgiveness in Christ, and ♦plan to take action to have a godly influence on others!

## 1. **Some Biblical Examples of Influence:**

- a. The Close of the Commandments (Ex. 20:5-6):  
They tell how one generation influences another:  
The LORD said, “I...am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the **third and fourth generation** of those who hate Me...”  
What does that mean; will *our children* be punished for *our sins*? No and yes!
  - i. No: <sup>ESV</sup> **Ezekiel 18:20** “... The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son.” // So one will not be punished for the other!
  - ii. Yes: What we are (*believers or non-believers*), **and** *how our lives show what we are* will highly influence our children

(and others), thus *generation after generation!* So believers *tend to have believing children*, while non-believers *tend to have non-believing children!* For that reason, let us be deliberate about teaching and living God's Word by following **Deuteronomy 6:6-9**, etc.

- b. The Death of Joshua: <sup>ESV</sup> **Judges 2:7** “...the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua... <sup>10</sup> ...[But] there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done for Israel.” // What happened? Those who knew about the LORD and His awesome work *failed to teach the next generation*☹! Therefore, when those who knew the LORD and His work died, *the others quickly went away from the LORD*☹!
- c. The Book of Judges: This pattern repeated over and over again: (1) The people were unfaithful to the LORD; (2) The LORD delivered them into the hands of their enemies; (3) The people repented and asked the LORD for mercy; (4) The LORD raised up a judge to defeat their enemies; (5) The people were faithful until that judge died; then the cycle repeated☹! When the judge, *the godly influence*, was gone, so was their faithfulness. So let us not only be the godly influence, *but help others be that influence too!*
- d. The Kings: Here are a few examples:

- i. **King David** – His fall into sin had a negative influence on his family; the LORD said to David, “the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife” (2Sa 12:10 ESV).
- ii. **King Nadab** – “he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father and in his sin” (1Ki 15:26 NAS).
- iii. **King Baasha** – “he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of Jeroboam” (1Ki 15:34 NAS).
- iv. **King Omri** – He “did evil in the sight of the LORD, and acted more wickedly than all who *were* before him” (1Ki 16:25 NAS).
- v. **King Ahaziah** – “he did evil in the sight of the LORD and walked in the way of his father and in the way of his mother” (1Ki 22:52 NAS).

## 2. **God’s Forgiveness in Christ:**

- a. We are NOT better than others; the Bible says,  
<sup>10</sup> “None is righteous [of himself], no, not one; ...  
<sup>12</sup> All have turned aside [from God’s ways to their own ways]; ...no one does good, not even one. ...  
<sup>20</sup> ...by works of the law no human being will be justified in [God’s] sight (Rom 3 ESV).
- b. We all need God’s gift of forgiveness in Christ:  
 When we were ➡**spiritually dead** (Eph. 2:1) – *like a physically dead body*, ➡**helpless** (1 Cor. 2:14) –

*like an inmate on death row, and ➡an enemy (Rom. 8:7) – like those who kill Christians, it was at that time (Rom. 5:8) that GOD took action through Jesus to †make us alive in Christ, †rescue us from our dungeon of despair, and †transform us from enemies to friends! We are saved **by** grace **through** faith in Jesus **for** eternal life!*

- c. The blessings: Though we have ♦all sinned and ♦wrongly influenced others, we have God's forgiveness—*for all the past*, and God's Word and Spirit—*for the present and the future!*
3. **Having a Godly Influence on Others**: As stated earlier, we all influence others; furthermore, our influence is powerful – *for bad or for good!* So let us live as God's children; then ♦He will be honored and ♦others will be blessed! But how? Here are some ideas:
  - a. Faithfully gather here each week: Don't give up meeting together, *but gladly come and receive!*
  - b. Faithfully worship at home each day: Bible reading, praying, and singing; be brief, regular, and flexible; *God will bless you and your family!*
  - c. Walk as Jesus did (1Jo 2:6); speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15); and do all to the glory of God (1Co 10:31).

**Conclusion**: Let us pray: Father in heaven, even though we have done much wrong, *You have made us right in Your sight; now, filled with joy*, help us to go forward to influence others in the very best ways! In Jesus' name, we pray! Amen!