

Sermon Discussion Questions

Resolution: Irresistible Influence

Feb 1, 2020

“Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man.” **Proverbs 3:3-4**

Getting Started:

The power to influence others comes when our focus shifts from “me-centered” to “you-centered”.

Who is the most unselfish person you know? What is it about them that makes them that way? What things do they do to show they care about you?

Going Deeper:

- I. A Loving Influence: “steadfast love”
 - A. Seek to be Interested before being interesting
 1. Show you care (**Matthew 14:13-14**)
 2. Slow to speak: (**James 1:19**)

Listening to others share their life story allows you to have a compassionate heart toward them rather than a judgmental heart based on limited information. Who do you know that listens well and then offers great advice and encouragement? How can you learn this honoring skill from them?

- B. Seek to Make Others Feel important
 1. Names Matter (**John 4; Luke 19:5**)
 2. Questions Flatter (**John 21:15-17**)

A wise seminary chaplain once said, ‘Learn people’s names. Everyone feels loved when they hear you speak their name.’ Asking people questions about themselves shows that you are interested in them and want to know more about them. Why do you think Jesus did these things? Why would He want you to do it also?

- II. **A Faithful Influence:** *“bind them around your neck”*
- A. **Friending:** be selective (**Proverbs 12:26, 13:20**)
 - B. **Critiquing:** be careful (**Matthew 7:1**)
 - C. **Celebrating:** be a cheerleader (**Romans 12:10**)
 - D. **Inviting:** be a bringer (**John 1:40-42**)

Having steadfast love and faithfulness bound around your neck gives us a mental picture of a mind and heart commitment to God and the precious people He has created. ‘Steadfast love’ comes from the Hebrew word ‘hesed’ which means loyal love. It is a word God uses many times throughout the Old Testament as a description of His love for His people. He will NEVER stop loving. Knowing how God feels about the human race, how does that affect your attitude toward others? As you allow God to guide you in the friends you select and the people you influence, how can you celebrate the good things in their lives? When should you invite them into your home or your social events? How will you know when they are ready to talk about spiritual things?

The Key Component: Intentional

TAKE AWAY: You can't be INFLUENTIAL without being INTENTIONAL

Prayer: