

Influence 2022 Pt. 3

Pastor James Foley – Sunday, May 15, 2022

COMMUNION

- 1) The Wafer Symbolizes the BODY of Christ – Broken for Us**
- 2) The Juice Symbolizes the BLOOD of Christ – Shed for Us All**

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NIV)

23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

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INTRODUCTION

Thank you for joining us! Whether you are here in person or joining via the livestream, you are most welcome! Please have a Bible at the ready and be prepared to take notes as you like. We have much to cover in a short space of time.

A QUICK RECAP

We are in the midst of an ongoing series on INFLUENCE. In recent sessions we have established the following...

NOTE 1 – Christ has both created and called us to be men, women and children of influence in the earth. Though the measure of our influence varies from person to person, we have all been given some capacity to impact others (i.e., for good or for ill). In light of these scriptural realities...

Q1. What type of influence are you in your world?

Q2. What are you doing with the influence/opps you have been given?

Q3. Are you a faithful or poor steward of what the Lord has uniquely entrusted to you?

NOTE 2 – Moreover, we all function within varying spheres of influential relationships. The people who populate our world will inhabit one of three spheres (i.e., the Circles of Intimate, Casual and Passing Influence). Let us understand and navigate these spheres, that we might have impact for time and eternity!

KEY – Please review previous messages and corresponding notes online at www.NewLifeBarre.org.

SETTING THE STAGE PT. 1

Today I would like to delve deeper by exploring matters of influence from a related yet differing perspective. Specifically, I would like to address three levels of influential relationship(s) that should be present in our lives. Please note...

1) Mentee Relationship – Relationships in which we allow people to pour into and/or influence our lives. Connections in which we serve as students or proteges in relation to worthy mentor figures. In this context, we are the influenced.

2) Mentor Relationship – Relationships in which we are allowed to pour into and/or influence others. Connections in which we serve as the mentor to proteges, wherein we serve as figures of impact. In this context, we are the influencer.

3) Mutual Relationship – Peers for the journey characterized by interdependent connection. In this scenario, there is a mutual degree of influence.

Q. To what degree are these three levels of relationship present in your life?

SETTING THE STAGE PT. 2

Q. What separates each level of relationship?

A. Generally, it is relative expertise or maturity.

ILL. – Allow me to demonstrate via the following illustration...

NOTE 1 – Have you ever visited a doctor before re: a medical issue? If so, why did you listen to their guidance? Why did you grant them a voice of influence in your life? Simply put, they possess expertise in an area that you do not. In this case, you are the influenced (i.e., mentee relationship).

NOTE 2 – Imagine for a moment that you are the doctor in this scenario and a patient comes to you with a medical question or concern. Why should you expect them to entertain your words or influence? You possess expertise in an area that they do not. In this case, you are the influencer (i.e., mentor).

NOTE 3 – Have you ever had a doctor consult with other doctors before deciding upon a course of action? Why do medical professionals bounce ideas and/or options off of one another? They share a level of expertise in a given field roughly equivalent to one another as interdependent and/or mutual influencers.

KEY 1 – This sentiment has spiritual application. Relatively speaking...

1) Mentee – You know people more mature in Christ than you. You might function as a mentee in this context.

2) Mentor – You know people less mature in Christ than you. You might function as a mentor in this scenario.

3) Mutual – You know people at a similar level in terms of maturity. These may be “peers for the journey.”

KEY 2 – I posit there is a place for each tier of relationship in our lives. We need mature figures who can pour into us (i.e., vital for discipleship). We need to give unto others who are less mature than us (i.e., outlet for service and a way to engage the GC). We need those of similar relative maturity for mutual edification and encouragement. Once again, to what degree are these levels of relationship present in your life?

NOTE 4 – I want to take the rest of our time broadly examining these three tiers or levels. I want to briefly outline: **a)** the characteristics of each level; **b)** biblical examples of each level; **c)** the role and necessity of each level; and **d)** the danger of neglecting or rejecting each level of relationship. Let’s go...

THE “MENTEE” RELATIONSHIP PT. 1 (GENERAL)

Let us address the first level of influential relationship...

NOTE 1 – In the mentee relationship you allow another to influence you in Christ (i.e., someone of superior maturity and/or expertise). In this relationship, you are the student, the learner, the coached, the counseled, the corrected, the directed, and the disciplined. In this scenario, we are on the receiving end of ministry.

NOTE 2 – This is a relational status we never outgrow. Please do not think only new believers need voices of godly influence! Since we will never reach full maturity in this life, and since there are always those further along the journey than us, we will never be beyond the need for trusted teachers or mentors.

Q. Does the Bible present any figures who operated as relational mentees?

- A1.** Moses allowed his father-in-law Jethro to instruct him regarding leadership and ministry.
- A2.** Joshua allowed Moses to pour into his life and cultivate him for leadership over Israel.
- A3.** Samuel allowed Eli to train him in the ways of the Lord (i.e., discerning His voice).
- A4.** Saul and David allowed Samuel to influence their reigns and administrations.
- A5.** David allowed the prophet Nathan to function as a voice of godly influence.
- A6.** Elisha the prophet both learned from and followed the example of Elijah.
- A7.** Queen Esther was impacted by the influence of her relative, Mordecai.
- A8.** Jesus, God the Son, allowed Mary and Joseph to influence Him in His rearing.
- A9.** The apostolic band coll. “sat at the feet of Christ” and aspired to His divine example.
- A10.** Paul allowed Barnabas to take him under his wing—Barnabas who would impact John Mark.

KEY – From beginning to end the Bible records this level of relationship. Let us consider the following example!

THE “MENTEE” RELATIONSHIP PT. 2 (EXAMPLE)

2 Timothy 1:1–11, 13–14 (NIV)

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, in keeping with the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, 2 To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. 3 I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. 4 Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. 5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. 8 So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. 9 He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, 10 but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. 11 And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. . . . 13 What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. 14 Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

Q. What do we see herein?**A.** We see Timothy as a mentee...**NOTE 1** – Consider that verses 5–6 speak to the influence Lois and Eunice had upon Timothy in his youth.**NOTE 2** – Consider how this selection speaks to the influence of Paul in the life of Timothy. Timothy is likened to a “son” in v. 2. The love of this father-figure is evident in vs. 3–4. Practical exhortation and challenge is both offered and received in vs. 6–11 AND a call to commitment is outlined from father to son in vs. 13–14. Nearly every aspect of this text presents Timothy as a mentee in relation to Paul and others. I wonder...**Q1.** What might have happened if Timothy rejected such mentoring figures?**Q2.** What type of man, missionary or believer would he have been? If at all?

MOREOVER...

Q1. What would have happened to Moses if he rejected the counsel of Jethro?**Q2.** What would have happened if Joshua spurned the call of God through Moses?**Q3.** What if David rejected the prophetic voice of Nathan and spurned his guidance?**Q4.** What if Esther was too busy with beauty treatments to heed godly Mordecai?**Q5.** What if the apostles chose to reject the message of Christ and divine call?**Q6.** What if Paul saw no need to come under the tutelage of Barnabas?**Q.** What if we reject the work of God through godly or influential mentors? We do so to our own peril...**THE “MENTOR” RELATIONSHIP PT. 1 (GENERAL)**

Let us address the second level of influential relationship...

NOTE 1 – In the mentor relationship you serve as an influencer (i.e., investing time, effort and energy into those of less maturity and/or expertise). In this scenario, you are the teacher, the coach, the counselor, the corrector, the director, and the discipler. Herein, we find ourselves on the giving end of ministry.**NOTE 2** – Of course, this does not mean you have to be a professional minister or formally-recognized leader. You serve under the auspices of church leadership and should draw upon their guidance and expertise in kind! In doing you follow the NT method of ministry (i.e., you help disciple those you win to Christ).**Q. Does the Bible present any figures who operated as relational mentors?****A1.** Jethro offered instruction to his son-in-law Moses concerning leadership and ministry.**A2.** Moses poured into and cultivated Joshua for the future leadership of national Israel.**A3.** Eli the priest trained the boy Samuel in properly discerning the voice of the Lord.**A4.** Samuel the prophet influenced the reigns of both King Saul and King David.**A5.** Mordecai provided a godly example and key insight for Queen Esther.**A6.** Mary and Joseph were called by God to properly rear Jesus of Nazareth.**A7.** Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God, both taught and cultivated the apostolic band.**A8.** Barnabas took Paul under his wing, helping him find entry into the church and ministry.**KEY** – From beginning to end the Bible records this level of relationship. Let us consider the following example!

THE “MENTOR” RELATIONSHIP PT. 2 (EXAMPLE)

KEY – Let us again consider another selection penned by Paul to his contemporary and protégé, Timothy...

2 Timothy 2:1–2 (Subsequent to Aforementioned Selection)

1 You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

Q1. What do we see herein?

- A1.** That the influenced must become an influencer.
- A2.** That the student must, in time, become the teacher.
- A3.** That the corrected must, in due time, offer correction.
- A4.** That one who is disciplined must do the work of discipling.
- A5.** That the mentee must at some point operate as a mentor.

I CAN ONLY WONDER...

Q1. What if Timothy had rejected this call of the Lord through Paul?

Q2. What might have happened to his ministry, his church, the Church?

MOREOVER

Q1. What if Jethro had stayed silent in relation to Moses?

Q2. What if Moses had failed to cultivate Joshua for leadership?

Q3. What if Eli had missed the opportunity to train up young Samuel?

Q4. What if Samuel was amiss during the reigns of King Saul and King David?

Q5. What if Mordecai found himself too busy to invest into Queen Esther?

Q6. What if Mary and Joseph proved to be unfit and negligent parents?

Q7. What if Jesus died for the world but never raised up witnesses?

Q8. What if Barnabas never opened the door for the a. Paul?

Q. What if we reject our opportunity to mentor others? I think we know the A to this Q all too well...

THE “MUTUAL” RELATIONSHIP PT. 1 (GENERAL)

Let us address the third and final level of influential relationship...

NOTE 1 – The mutual relationship exists between relative equals operating in a state of interdependence and reciprocal influence. This tier of connection is not based upon mentorship in either direction, but a healthy sense of ministerial give-and-take in the journey of life.

NOTE 2 – Such relationships are characterized by love, sacrifice, acceptance, trust, healthy boundary, edification, encouragement and mutual concern. The bonds which God can establish between peers is profound and can bring about transformative kingdom growth.

Q. Does the Bible present any figures who operated as relational peers?

A1. We could speak at length re: David and Jonathan (i.e., arguably the greatest friendship in Scripture)!

A2. Jesus sent His followers out in pairs. Have you ever wondered why He sent them out in such fashion?

A3. We could speak of Paul and his specific mention of 91 peers, colleagues and/or “ministry associates.”

THE “MUTUAL” RELATIONSHIP PT. 2 (EXAMPLE)

KEY – I will close with this final example from the pages of Scripture...

Acts 16:22–34 (While Ministering in Philippi)

22 The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. 23 After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. 24 When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose. 27 The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. 28 But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!”

29 The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

31 They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. 33 At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. 34 The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

Q. What do we see herein?

A. Mutual comfort, encouragement and kingdom growth!

SUMMATIONS

KEY 1 – In our lives we need and should pursue three levels of influential relationships...

- 1) Mentee Relationships** – Wherein we allow others to pour into and/or spiritually invest in us...
- 2) Mentor Relationships** – Wherein we are allowed to pour into and/or spiritually invest in others...
- 3) Mutual Relationships** – Wherein we journey through this life with peers, comrades and s. partners.

Q. In which level are you the strongest? Weakest?

KEY 2 – We will delve deeper on these layers of relationship and more in the weeks to come. God bless you!

CONCLUSION

NOTE 1 – Those who wish to give online may do so at www.NewLifeBarre.org. Those who wish to give in person can utilize the offering boxes located throughout the church facility. Thank you for your faithfulness in supporting this local work of Christ.

NOTE 2 – Please check out the website for the calendar of upcoming events and more. Church-wide Work Day!

NOTE 3 – My thanks to the many who made Family Fun Day a success! May the Lord bless you for your work....

Numbers 6:24–26

- 24 “The Lord bless you
and keep you;
- 25 the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
- 26 the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.”