

Influence 2022 Pt. 7

Pastor James Foley – Sunday, July 10, 2022

COMMUNION

Communion is the Christ-ordained means whereby His people are to remember His sacrifice until He Returns...

- 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 desire. We have much to cover in a rather short space of time.

SUMMATIONS

In recent weeks we have identified three levels of influential relationship that should be present in our lives....

1) Mentee Relationship – Relationships in which we allow other people to pour into and 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 types of relationship present in your life?

KEY – Moving along, let us hone in on the MUTUAL relationship in particular. Let us delve in...

THE INFLUENCE OF FRIENDS PT. 1

Scripture has much to say re: the influence of our friends, companions and peers (i.e., primarily TBO Proverbs).

NOTE 1 – To begin, the people we allow into the “inner circles” of our lives influence us more than we know. In fact, we often take on the characteristics, habits and values of those with whom we surround ourselves. Consider the following passage...

Proverbs 13:20 (NIV, Emphasis Mine)

20 Walk with the wise and **become** wise,
for a companion of fools suffers harm.

QUOTE – “Always make friends with those who are smarter than you; that’s how you become smart yourself.”

NOTE 2 – Knowing this, the Lord warns against the influence of the ungodly. Though we live amongst and are to love the people who inhabit the world, Scripture cautions against making friendships with the rejecting! God does not want us to take on their evil behaviors and activities. For instance...

Proverbs 22:24–25

24 Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person,
do not associate with one easily angered,
25 or you may learn their ways
and get yourself ensnared.

REMEMBER...

1 Corinthians 15:33

33 Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.”

SIMILARLY...

2 Corinthians 6:14

14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common?
Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

THE INFLUENCE OF FRIENDS PT. 2

In light of these principles, we must exercise wisdom in selecting our friends...

Proverbs 12:26 (Emphasis Mine)

26 The righteous **choose** their friends **carefully**,
but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

NOTE 1 – A righteous person does not take on just anyone as a friend. Rather, they are selective and discerning. Though we are to love the world and reach out to the lost through relational connection, we are to practice caution concerning who we allow into the inner circle of our lives. Let us be like Christ...

NOTE 2 – Jesus (cf. Matt. 11:19) was known to be a friend of sinners, in that He spent time with them and cared for their needs. He was not an isolationist! However, His intimate companions were those devoted to God. This allowed Him to influence the world without being unduly influenced by it. Balance!

THUS SAID...

CAUTIONARY ELEMENTS

The Bible cautions us against making friends with certain types of people...

1) The Short-Tempered**Proverbs 22:24–25**

24 Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person,
do not associate with one easily angered,
25 or you may learn their ways and get yourself ensnared.

2) The Gossip

Proverbs 20:19

19 A gossip betrays a confidence;
so avoid anyone who talks too much.

3) The Drinker and the Glutton

Proverbs 23:20–21

20 Do not join those who drink too much wine
or gorge themselves on meat,
21 for drunkards and gluttons become poor,
and drowsiness clothes them in rags.

4) The Dishonest and Unfaithful

Proverbs 25:19

19 Like a broken tooth or a lame foot
is reliance on the unfaithful in a time of trouble.

5) The Rebellious

Proverbs 24:21–22

21 Fear the Lord and the king, my son,
and do not join with rebellious officials,
22 for those two will send sudden destruction on them,
and who knows what calamities they can bring?

6) The Violent

Proverbs 1:10–19

10 My son, if sinful men entice you,
do not give in to them.
11 If they say, "Come along with us;
let's lie in wait for innocent blood,
let's ambush some harmless soul;
12 let's swallow them alive, like the grave,
and whole, like those who go down to the pit;
13 we will get all sorts of valuable things
and fill our houses with plunder;
14 cast lots with us;
we will all share the loot" —
15 my son, do not go along with them,
do not set foot on their paths;
16 for their feet rush into evil,
they are swift to shed blood.
17 How useless to spread a net
where every bird can see it!

18 These men lie in wait for their own blood;
they ambush only themselves!
19 Such are the paths of all who go after ill-gotten
gain; it takes away the life of those who get i

FOUNDATIONAL ELEMENTS PT. 1

Q1. What should we look for in potential friends?

Q2. What are the hallmarks of a godly connection?

A1. Sincerity.

Healthy friendships are based on genuine loyalty and mutual concern. A good friend is not concerned with what they can get out of the relationship, but what they can give and/or invest. “Fair-weather friends” who hang about for the wrong reasons (i.e., gain) are no friends at all...

Proverbs 19:4a, 6

4 Wealth attracts many friends . . .

6 Many curry favor with a ruler,
and everyone is the friend of one who gives gifts.

A2. Diligent Love

Proverbs 17:17

17 A friend loves at all times,
and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

Romans 12:10

10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

A3. Counsel

Proverbs 27:9

9 Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart,
and the pleasantness of a friend
springs from their heartfelt advice.

A4. Encouragement

Hebrews 10:24b–25

24 . . . let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

A5. Mutual Refinement

Proverbs 27:17

17 As iron sharpens iron,
so one person sharpens another.

A6. Accountability (i.e., Capacity to Give & Receive Correction)

Proverbs 27:5–6

5 Better is open rebuke
than hidden love.

6 Wounds from a friend can be trusted,
but an enemy multiplies kisses.

A7. Forgiveness

Proverbs 17:9

9 Whoever would foster love covers over an offense,
but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.

Colossians 3:13

13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

A8. Loyalty

Proverbs 18:24

24 One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin,
but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

A9. Presence & Discernment

Romans 12:15

15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

A10. Aid & Assistance

Ecclesiastes 4:9–12

9 Two are better than one,
because they have a good return for their labor:

10 If either of them falls down,
one can help the other up.

But pity anyone who falls
and has no one to help them up.

11 Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.
But how can one keep warm alone?

12 Though one may be overpowered,
two can defend themselves.

A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

KEY 1 – Pursue such people and such elements and you will cultivate great friendships. Of course...

KEY 2 – Scripture does touch upon those habits that erode the best of friendships. Note the following...

FOUNDATIONAL ELEMENTS PT. 2

NOTE 1 – Do not make a pest of yourself and overstay your welcome...

Proverbs 25:17

17 Seldom set foot in your neighbor's house—
too much of you, and they will hate you.

NOTE 2 – Do not be inconsiderate...

Proverbs 27:14

14 If anyone loudly blesses their neighbor early in the morning, it will be taken as a curse.

NOTE 3 – Do not betray a confidence...

Proverbs 17:9

9 Whoever would foster love covers over an offense,
but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.

NOTE 4 – Do not traffic in senseless arguments...

Proverbs 17:14

14 Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam;
so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out.

BIBLICAL REMEDIES

Of course, all relationships experience moments of conflict. Scripture speaks to solving relational issues...

1) Seek Peace with God First

Before you try to address relational problems one-with-another, make sure your relationship with God is solid. You cannot have peace with your fellow man until you know peace with God through Christ...

Proverbs 16:7 (NIV, 1984)

7 When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD,
he makes even his enemies live at peace with him.

2) Take Responsibility and Apologize if Necessary

Sometimes we hurt others with our words and/or deeds. Be quick to apologize and seek reconciliation...

Matthew 5:23–24

23 "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

3) Mind Your Temper (i.e., When Wronged)

Your temper may be a hindrance to reconciliation. Take some time to calm down before you seek resolution...

Proverbs 15:18 (NIV)

18 A hot-tempered person stirs up conflict, but the one who is patient calms a quarrel.

Ephesians 4:26a

26 "In your anger do not sin" . . .

4) Watch Your Words

Proverbs 10:19 (NIV, 1984)

19 When words are many, sin is not absent,
but he who holds his tongue is wise.

ALSO...

Proverbs 15:1

1 A gentle answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger.

FYI – It is not what you say, but how you say it!

5) Practice Purposeful Listening

Proverbs 18:13

13 To answer before listening . . . is folly and shame.

James 1:19

19 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,

6) Be Quick to Demonstrate Love

Proverbs 10:12 (NIV)

12 Hatred stirs up conflict,
but love covers over all wrongs.

7) Speak the Truth in Love

Proverbs 28:23

23 Whoever rebukes a person will in the end gain favor
rather than one who has a flattering tongue.

KEY – Sometimes we compromise the truth in order to keep the peace. We act like all is well because challenging poor behavior seems too difficult or risky. This, however, does not establish peace, but only the illusion of peace. Sometimes the other party is wrong and needs to be challenged...

ONE FINAL WORD

Let us end with the following passage...

Proverbs 18:24 (NIV)

24 A man of many companions may come to ruin,
but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

KEY – You may have many friends, and I pray the Lord blesses each and every connection. However, there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother (i.e., a level of intimacy and access beyond the normal ties of family and friendship). That friend is Christ – He is calling out to you today! There is no one like Him...

Q. Will you receive Him today?

CONCLUSIONS

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 the work of the Lord!

NOTE 2 – This morning I would like to ask for your help with a missions-related need from Max & Lauren B. . . .

Max and Lauren reached out to me with the following message: “Hello Pastor. I have a rather strange request for you to consider. Lauren and I use iPhones quite a bit in our ministry. We have to use unlocked iPhones because it allows us to travel throughout Europe with different sim cards. All that to say, our old phones are dying quickly and we need to pick up new ones. Unfortunately, we have to pay full price for these unlocked phones (\$2k for both phones total). Would you be willing to help us cover this cost, as it is a large expense? Please by no means feel like you have to do anything. I know this isn’t a common request. We just figured we would ask around. Thanks.

KEY – Offering for Max & Lauren (i.e., checks and online put **PHONE** in the memo field). Thank you in advance!

NOTE 3 – Sunday School each week at 9:15am; Thursday Bible Study at 6:30pm; WM 2nd Tuesday; MM & CYC...

NOTE 4 – Those who wish to linger in this sanctuary may feel free to do so. This is to be a house of prayer, so those who feel the need to pray may do so as they please. Moreover, I would be more than happy to pray with those who have need(s).

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.