

BACK TO SCHOOL

About Influence

Introduction:

1. Around this time each year, our young people go back to school.
2. This series will focus on issues that we tend to think of as those facing the younger generation.
3. However, these matters concern all men – young and old, children and adults.
4. Often, adults will go back to school to continue their education.
5. Sometimes, in our spiritual lives, we need to go back to school and reflect upon the teaching of Scripture.

I. Everyone Has an Influence

- A. *The World's Bible*
- B. Someone is always watching us, especially if they know we are a Christian.
- C. We can be an influence for good.
 1. Deliberately (John 1:40-42)
 2. Unintentionally (Genesis 13:7; Acts 16:23-24)
- D. We can be an influence for evil.
 1. Deliberately (1 Kings 14:16; John 12:42) {17 times / 16 Jeroboam}
 2. Unintentionally (2 Samuel 11:2)
- E. But, we will be an influence.

II. Everyone Has a Responsibility

- A. The principle of stewardship
 1. With great blessings come great responsibilities.
 2. Stewards are given the duty of caring for someone else's riches (cf. Matthew 20:8; Luke 16:1-2).
 3. Christians are stewards of God's blessings (Titus 1:7; 1 Peter 4:10).
 4. A steward must be faithful in his duties (1 Cor. 4:1-2; Luke 12:42-46).
- B. We have great responsibilities to God.
 1. In worship and fellowship (John 4:24; Hebrews 10:25)
 2. But also in the world (Matthew 5:16)
- C. We must be faithful stewards of our influence.
 1. Always do what is right – even when you think no one is looking.
 2. Always set a good example (1 Timothy 4:12; Titus 2:6-8).
 3. Love your friends (Mark 5:19; John 15:13; Acts 10:24; Gal. 4:16).
 4. Love your enemies (Matthew 5:43-44; Romans 12:20; 5:10).

III. Everyone Has a Community

- A. God created man to be a social creature (Genesis 2:18).
- B. We all need friends.
- C. But, we must be careful of the influence others have upon us.
- D. What is a true friend?
 1. One who loves us and seeks our best (Prov. 17:17; 27:6; 2 Kin. 5:13)
 2. One who strengthens and encourages (Prov. 27:9; 1 Sam. 23:15-18)
 3. One who helps us get to Heaven (Prov. 18:24; John 15:14)
- E. We tend to act like those we associate with (1 Cor. 15:33; Prov. 13:20).

1. We must choose our friends wisely.
 2. We must choose our dates wisely.
 3. We must choose our heroes (mentors) wisely.
 4. THE CHURCH MUST BE FRIENDLY!
- F. Remember, it is easier to be pulled by another than it is to pull another up (Galatians 6:1).

Conclusion:

1. There are wonderful opportunities presented to each of us as we interact with the world.
2. However, we must work diligently to influence them for good and never allow them to influence us for evil.
3. What kind of influence do you have in your world?
4. Have you responded to the influence of the Word of God?