



Who And What Are you Following?

Rather, who and what is influencing you?

- **Media and “social media” – powerful tools of influence.**
- **Both God and Satan seek to influence** for good and evil and are concerned about who we follow.
- **Satan uses the tools of “*the world*” to influence for his purposes** and objectives. (Isaiah 2:5-6; 1 John 2:15)

Who And What Are you Following?

Social Media – two concerns:

- 1. Content consumed** – geared towards the *“lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life.”* (1 John 2:15-17)
- 2. Time spent** – do we think about the **opportunity cost?** (Ephesians 5:11-16)

Who are you following?

Who’s influencing you? We must choose!

Between the world and God. (James 4:4; 1 John 2:15; Joshua 24:15)

Both to eliminate and include. (Numbers 33:55; Deuteronomy 7:4; Psalms 1:1-3 versus Philipians 3:17-20; 1 Thessalonians 5:14)

Who’s on your “board of directors”? (1 Kings 12)

Who are you following?

- **Will we choose to follow the Lord fully?** (Matthew 16:24-25; Luke 9:57-62)
- **Anything or anyone diverting our attention?** (Matthew 14:30; Hebrews 12:1-2; 2:1-2; 1 Corinthians 7:35)
- **We’re either actively following or we are opposing!** (Matthew 12:30; cf. Philipians 3:18)

Who are you following?

What are we exposing our hearts and minds to?

- **Be careful!** (Proverbs 4:23; Mark 4:24; Romans 13:13-14)
- Will we **follow the “masses”?** (Exodus 23:2; Matthew 7:13-14)
- **“Do not be deceived ...”** (1 Corinthians 15:33; Hebrews 2:1)
 - Who are the evil companions? (Psalms 1:1-2)
- **We need to get real!** (Jeremiah 17:9; James 1:23-25)

Who are you following?

The **effects of worldly influences** ...
(Colossians 2:6-8, 18-23; Ephesians 5:6)

- Dangers of **media** and **on-line influences**.
- The thorny soil** ... (Matthew 13:22) **doesn't bear fruit**.
- No time ... really?** (Ephesians 5:15-16)

How do we influence?

Through our ...

- **Conduct** – our very presence, or lack thereof.
(1 Timothy 4:12; 1 Peter 2:11-12; Ephesians 5:15-16)
- **Conversation and Speech** – **MUST** share the gospel! (2 Kings 7:9; 2 Timothy 2:2)
 - What happens when we don't?
- **Endurance/persistence** – (James 1:3-4; 2 Timothy 4:2-5)

We can't hide in our "cave"! (1 Kings 19:9ff)

Who's following your example?

We're all examples in one form or another ...

- For good** (Matthew 5:13-16; 1 Timothy 4:12) **or bad** (Galatians 2:11-13; Philippians 3:18-19) ...
- Do you **encourage or discourage greater faithfulness?** (1 Thessalonians 4:1)
- We're either making it easier or harder.**
(Numbers 13:25ff; Revelation 2:4; 3:17)
- Are we laying **stumbling blocks** or **stepping stones?** (Luke 17:1-2)

Who's following your example?

Where our example matters:

- **At home** (1 Peter 3:1-7; Ephesians 6:4; 2 Timothy 1:5; 3:15)
- **At work** (Colossians 3:22-24; Ephesians 6:5-9; 1 Peter 2:18-20)
- **In society** (Romans 13:1ff; 1 Peter 2:11-17; Matthew 5:13-16)
- **In the church** (1 Timothy 4:12; Titus 2:7; 1 Peter 5:3)

What kind of example are you providing?

Are We Concerned With Expanding Our Influence?

"Now Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, 'Oh that You would bless me indeed and enlarge my border, and that Your hand might be with me, and that You would keep me from harm that it may not pain me!' And God granted him what he requested." (1 Chronicles 4:10; cf. Colossians 4:3-5; 1 Corinthians 3:6-7)

How long does influence (or lack thereof) last?

Generations to come! (Psalms 22:30-31)

Possibly forever ... (Matthew 18:6-9; James 5:19-20; 2 Timothy 2:2)

We can't undo past influences, but we can:

- **Be forgiven** (Acts 2:38; 8:22; Ephesians 1:7)
- Resolve to be **an influence for good going forward.** (Philippians 3:13-14)

Your choice today?

Be a follower of Jesus Christ and Him alone!

(Matthew 16:24-25)

There is no greater influence for good than your **obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ** through your belief in Him, your confession, repentance, and baptism!

Be an influencer who acknowledges your sin and truly repents and returns to the fold. (Luke 15:1-10)