

People of Influence

Hi amazing connex leaders.

This week we are focusing on the sermon – people of influence ‘Daniel’.

The thrust of this message was to live by our convictions not emotions.

Enjoy.

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the spirit of the Lord.

There is an influence that comes, it grows as we have connection with God. The bible calls this growing in influence – transformation.

We get influence as we get transformed. That Transformation is from one degree of glory to another. Thus is changes or grows.

We get transformed and influence comes.

Transformation in Christ occurs both immediately and over time. As we get transformed from one degree of glory to another, our influence grows.

Influence is not always immediate – it mostly grows over time.

Today I want us to look at the life of Daniel. We will see that the influence on his life grew over time. He gained more and more authority as he did the right thing.

His life is a great example of the ‘growth of influence’.

Daniel

Background –

Taken into captivity with the nation of Israel by Babylonians.

1. How do you describe Influence? What causes it?

Lets read Daniel 1:1-5

Daniel wanted to keep himself in some way. He decided to ask if he could not eat the food from the Kings table.

He saw that eating the food would defile him. (1:8)

Why not eat the food?

It seems strange that Daniel does not complain about his name being changed or even having to study the occult practices of the Babylonians.

So, why only the food and wine?

Most probably the food was partly sacrificed to idols and may contain meat that was deemed defiled by Israelites. The wine back in those days was often mixed with the blood from sacrifices to idols. This was meant to give the young people a better complexion. Daniel opposed this.

So why not stand against the other things?

The other things were not against the scriptures.

Note he did not stand against changing his name into that which referred to a pagan god, nor did he refuse to study the occult. These are not forbidden. They don't necessarily do you any good but they are not forbidden.

The House of God

What interests me here is verse 1-2 makes specific reference to the House of God and its articles. Israelites loved the house of God. They considered it sacred, untouchable. **I believe that Daniel's refusal has something to do with his honor of the House of God and its articles.**

Building the house of God is conviction. We do it not because things go right all the time but because that's what we do. Daniel loved the house of God. His love meant he based his life decisions on the conviction of the house of God.

2. Why is the house of God so important?

He loved the house of God and would not want to be involved in anything that defiles or has defiled the house of God and its articles.

So if you want to be an influential person, love the house of God, love what it contains, love the word of God.

Three Attitudes that cause influence

There are three life attitudes that Daniel lived that caused him to be a man of influence. Lets look at them.

Lived a life of honor

Daniel did things the right way. He approached the people over him directly. He never assumed anything, even though he was a gifted man.

He did not let his gifts get in the way of honor.

Honor – the position we take.

It is more of an attitude than an action. The attitude comes first. If the attitude of honor is not there then the action will be short of what it should be.

Romans 13:7 give honor to whom honor is due

1 Peter 2:17 Honor all men, fear God and honor the king.

Who do we honor?

Government – the king; those in authority over us

Church leaders

Parents

How do we honor?

Don't listen to criticism!

People with a critical spirit find it increasingly difficult to honor because all they see is the faults.

People who regularly criticize may in fact be projecting their faults onto others. Criticism closes heaven. Faith opens heaven, and faith is never critical.

Be thankful

Even when we don't like life.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 be thankful in all things for this is the will of God.

Speak positive- stop the gutter trash talk.

So and so did not do this for me. Who do they think they are?

If you cant say something good, don't say anything at all.

Lived a life of service

What Is service?

- Being treated nicely by people you come into contact with.
- Giving something to someone because you are meant to do it.
- Treating people with respect

- Acknowledging someone
- Giving preference
- Recognising preference and place

People of influence learn to recognize preference of someone else or the place they hold. When we do that we begin to serve them.

Service – doing the right thing.

This is less about giving honor to whom honor is due and more about recognizing who we really are and what we should be doing. Honor is mostly an attitude, service is mostly an action.

People of influence find ways to serve – they look for what needs to be done and volunteer. They don't take things for granted.

Daniel served the king. He served in the King's court.

His jobs would have been pretty meaningless and inconsequential. The king did not even know him when Daniel came to request the king not kill all the men who could not interpret his dream. Daniel even had to go to a person in between himself and the king.

He served. He completed the action with an attitude of honor.

Lived a life of prayer

3. Why is prayer important to you?

Daniel 2: 17-19

Daniel 6:10-11

He was to be a man of prayer.

James 5:16 Pray of a righteous man avails much.

One can 1000 to flight, two can put ten thousand

Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing but in everything let your requests (your prayers) be known to God, and the peace of God that passes all understanding will guard your heart.

Let your requests – we need to let ourselves go to God, go to the God space. In a sense as we let go of anxiety with everything and let go towards God the by-product is peace.

The bible calls this surrender.

Surrendering to the plans of God. Surrendering to the peace of God.

You see God is a gentleman. He will not come where he is not wanted. He will not go where he is not asked. Where he is not put on the throne. So if we surrender, **then the very**

attributes of God that are needed in the situation will surround our lives. **Its not just peace, it is God that surrounds our lives.** When we are surrounded we give into the plans, purposes, promises, and character of the person who surrounds us.

Our peace, is actually Him.

Prayer is not a tool to get something. It is the path to a destination. It is the journey. It is not a lever, where by we can go to abba father and demand something. No it is by product of relationship.

So we pray not to get, because we already have. – the bible calls this Faith.

IN DANIEL'S LIFE

So Daniel lived a life of prayer. That's why when the King said to come and bow down to only him, an isolated action, Daniel went to his place and prayed. **He wasn't just responding to the situation he was doing what he always did.**

Do you always pray? Just a thought. Is prayer a mechanism for change or a foundation for life? Is there a sense of surrender or just the sense of expectation.

Prayer will cause change, no doubt about that. But Prayer is not a change mechanism it is a foundation.

If we are to be people of influence we pray not to get influence, we pray because its built into the fabric of our lives.

Just a thought? When was the last time you went to a pre-service prayer meeting?

People of influence have things in their world by intention not by desire.

What are your intentions? Are you intentional in prayer or do we just respond to a situation.?

Convictions

For Daniel prayer was a conviction and thus he was intentional about it. What do you really believe or think about church? About fellowship, about life? They are your convictions.

Do you think church is just an add on? Is the prayer meeting just an add on? Is the call of God important to you? Or is it just an ad on? A supplementary part of your life for a season. Is church just an add on? Is your marriage just an add on? Are your kids just an add on?

To be influential we need to learn to move past what we feel like to what our convictions are so that we can be intentional about them.

4. What things make you change your decisions on money? What things make you change your

decisions on Church? What makes you change your attitude to life?

What makes us change are our convictions!

Daniel was a man of conviction. He lived a life of honor out of conviction. He would not eat or drink out of conviction. He prayed out of conviction. He served out of conviction. **It was his convictions that brought the influence into his life.**

He had beliefs/convictions about the house of God and its articles. He did not want to defile himself with something that was being used wrongly.

Influence grows. It takes a bunch of people who choose to live out of their convictions. As we do that our influence grows. We are a people of influence, not because we have this amazing influence but because of the way we choose to live our lives.

Lets follow Daniel's example.