

The Influence We Have on People

I was sitting in the waiting room at the dentist's office this week, and everyone was either sitting quietly reading, or just staring. Patients were coming and going. The door opened once again and a young man with a bright smile walked in. Everyone returned his smile, and his energy just changed the mood of everyone in the waiting room.

I am sure we were all witnesses to the opposite situation where a group of people are laughing and sharing jokes, and suddenly someone walks in with an angry or sad face and the laughter just dies out. In both cases one person's disposition affects the mood of others.

People today have the mindset that they can do anything they please as long as they do not hurt anyone else. They use the excuse: "It is my life, and I do what ever I want." This statement is one of Satan's great deceptions. Here is what God has to say about the subject:

"The life of Christ was an ever-widening, shoreless influence, an influence that bound Him to God and to the whole human family. Through Christ, God has invested man with an influence that makes it impossible for him to live to himself. Individually we are connected with our fellow men, a part of God's great whole, and we stand under mutual obligations. No man can be independent of his fellow men; for the well-being of each affects others. It is God's purpose that each shall feel himself necessary to others' welfare, and seek to promote their happiness.

Every soul is surrounded by an atmosphere of its own, -- an atmosphere, it may be, charged with the life-giving power of faith, courage, and hope, and sweet with the fragrance of love. Or it may be heavy and chill with the gloom of discontent and selfishness, or poisonous with the deadly taint of cherished sin. By the atmosphere surrounding us, every person with whom we come in contact is consciously or unconsciously affected.

This is a responsibility from which we cannot free ourselves. Our words, our acts, our dress, our deportment, even the expression of the countenance, has an influence. Upon the impression thus made there hang results for good or evil which no man can measure. Every impulse thus imparted is seed sown which will produce its harvest. It is a link in the long chain of human events, extending we know not whither. If by our example we aid others in the development of good principles, we give them power to do good. In their turn they exert the same influence upon others, and they upon still others. Thus by our unconscious influence thousands may be blessed. Throw a pebble into the lake, and a wave is formed; and another and another; and as they increase, the circle widens, until it reaches the very shore. So with our influence. Beyond our knowledge or control it tells upon others in blessing or cursing.

*Character is power. The silent witness of a true, unselfish, godly life carries an almost irresistible influence. **By revealing in our own life the character of Christ we co-operate with Him in the work of saving souls.** It is only by revealing in our life His character that we can co-operate with Him. And the wider the sphere of our influence, the more good we may do. When those who profess to serve God follow Christ's example, practicing the principles of the law in their daily life; **when every act bears witness that they love God supremely and their neighbor as themselves, then will the church have power to move the world.**" Messages to Young People 417-418*

We should not worry about how and when we are supposed to witness for Him. All we need to do is to stay close to Him and all the necessary skills will "rub off" on us. How can we stay close to Him? By frequent study, and constant prayer.

Christ, Our Example

“Christ came to this world for a purpose, -- to perform a divine mission. **Every other consideration was subordinated to the fulfillment of this work.** ‘My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me’ He declared, ‘and to finish His work.’ John 4:34 And knowing that the opposition to His labors would wax stronger until finally He must cease. He said, further: ‘I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day: The night cometh, when no man can work.’ John 9:4 And when the sad hour came that cruel hands were laid on the Son of God, on the same night when to the emissaries of the great adversary the words were spoken, ‘this is your hour, and the power of darkness.’ Jesus lifted up His eyes to Heaven, and could say to His Father, ‘I have finished the work which Thou gavest me to do.’”

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald -DT- 05-04-1911

“God stands toward His people in the relation of a father, and **He has a father's claim to our faithful service.** Consider the life of Christ. Standing at the head of humanity, serving His Father, **He is an example of what every son should and may be. The obedience that Christ rendered God, is required from human beings today.** He served His Father with love, in willingness and freedom. ‘I delight to do Thy will, O My God,’ He declared; ‘yea, Thy law is within My heart.’ Psalm 40:8 Christ counted no sacrifice too great, no toil too hard, in order to accomplish the work which He came to do. At the age of twelve He said, ‘Wist ye not that I must be about My Father's business?’ Luke 2:49. He had heard the call, and had taken up the work. ‘My meat,’ He said, ‘is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work.’ John 4:34”

Christ's Object Lessons -PG- 282

“Now in the establishment and broadening of the work in this country, means will be essential, that we may do a large work in a short time. And the only way we can do it is, in every movement, to keep the eye single to the glory of God, so that it may not be said of us, They began to build, and were not able to finish. In leading out to do a broader work, we need, at the very beginning, to put pride and worldly ambition entirely out of our hearts. Having before us the example of Christ, the greatest Teacher the world ever knew, we need not make a mistake. ‘He that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.’ ‘If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.’ **We must study the Pattern, and inquire at every step, ‘Is this the way of the Lord?’** We shall certainly make grave mistakes if we do not keep self-denial and self-sacrifice prominent before the people in every movement.”

Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers -PG- 178

“When but twelve years of age, the Son of God was found among the learned rabbis, executing His mission; and when asked as to why He had remained after the feast, He replied, ‘Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?’ This was the one great object of His life. Everything else was secondary and subservient. It was His meat and drink to do the will of

God, and to finish His work. Self and selfish interest had no part in His labor. **Love to God and man demands the whole heart**, and leaves no place for selfishness to flourish in the life. Jesus declared, *‘I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh when no man can work.’*”

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald -DT- 03-13-1888

“God does not intend that your light shall so shine that your good words or works shall bring the praise of men to yourself; but that the Author of all good shall be glorified and exalted. Jesus, in His life, gave to men a model of character. How little power did the world have over Him to mold Him according to its standard! All its influence was thrown off. He declared, *‘My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work.’* If we had this devotion to the work of God, doing it with an eye single to His glory, we should be able to say with Christ, *‘I seek not mine own glory.’* His life was full of good works, and **it is our duty to live as our great Example lived. Our life must be hid with Christ in God, and then the light will be reflected from Jesus to us, and we shall reflect it upon those around us, not in mere talk and profession, but in good works, and by manifesting the character of Christ.** Those who are reflecting the light of God, will cherish a loving disposition. They will be cheerful, willing, obedient to all the requirements of God. They will be meek and self-sacrificing, and will work with devoted love for the salvation of souls. In such workers there is an independent love for and a confidence in the truth, united with wisdom to set it before others.”

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald -DT- 10-16-1888

“However trying their labor, the true workers do not regard it as drudgery. They are ready to spend and to be spent; but it is a cheerful work, done with a glad heart. Joy in God is expressed through Jesus Christ. Their joy is the joy set before Christ – *‘to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work.’* John 4:34 **They are in co-operation with the Lord of glory. This thought sweetens all toil, it braces the will, it nerves the spirit for whatever may befall.** Working with unselfish heart, ennobled by being partakers of Christ's sufferings, sharing His sympathies, and co-operating with Him in His labor, they help to swell the tide of His joy and bring honor and praise to His exalted name.”

Christ's Object Lessons -PG- 402

“Those who have the spiritual oversight of the church should devise ways and means by which an opportunity may be given to every member of the church to act some part in God's work. Too often in the past this has not been done. Plans have not been clearly laid and fully carried out whereby the talents of all might be employed in active service. There are but few who realize how much has been lost because of this.”

Welfare Ministry -PG- 110

“Said Christ, *‘My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work.’* *‘I seek not Mine own glory, but the glory of Him that sent Me.’* **Let the people of God arouse to a sense of their deficiencies, and of the work that they must do.** Let them break every yoke. Let them make their prayers practical. It is for the best good of the Lord's people that the sins and the defects caused by the enemy be plainly pointed out.”

The Gospel Herald -DT- 04-01-1905

“If we do love God with all the heart, we shall remember His claims upon us. He requires that we shall be like Him, that we shall imitate the self-sacrificing life of Christ. Jesus said of

Himself, *'My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work.'* The joy ever before Him was the blessing and uplifting of fallen humanity. Everything else was secondary and subordinate. From the manger to Calvary His life was one scene of loving effort and sacrifice for the good of men. **If Christ is dwelling in our hearts, we shall have the same spirit, and shall do the same work. Our thoughts, our interests, our sympathies, as well as our words and money and effort, will be given to the up-building of the Redeemer's kingdom.** And this not merely as a duty; it will be our life, our joy. As the living water bursts from the mountain spring, so will our life flow out in words and deeds of love."

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald -DT- 12-09-1890

"Let every one take time to consider carefully; not be like the man in the parable, who began to build, and was not able to finish. Not a move should be made until that movement and all it portends are carefully considered, everything weighed, and he feels that the Lord has something for him to do in educating and training himself to do a more spiritual work in imparting to others that which God has imparted to him. To every man was given his work according to his several ability. Then let him not move hesitatingly, but firmly, and yet humbly trusting in God. **All our talents are from God, to be rendered back with interest.** *'My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work.'*"

Special Testimonies - Relating to Various Matters in Battle Creek -PG- 15

"I have many things written for you, but I have said What good will it do? My brethren have trifled and caviled and criticized and commented and demerited, and picked and chosen a little and refused much until the testimonies mean nothing to them. They put whatever interpretation upon them that they choose in their own finite judgment and are satisfied. I would, if I had dared given up this field of conflict long ago, but something has held me. But **I will not choose my way or my will.** In the life of Christ in the time of His greatest trial, one of His disciples betrayed and another thrice denied Him, and all forsook Him and fled. **If the Master Who was without the taint of sin endured this, then shall I expect any better portion?** O, how many tried to find witness against Christ. The most cruel, and the most incurable thing is bigotry and prejudice and it lives just as firmly in human hearts today as when Christ was upon the earth. But I leave all this in the hands of God. I feel cut loose from many of my brethren, they do not understand me or my mission or my work, for if they did they could never have pursued the course they have done. I love to have the ones who feel they need help, poor, hungry, starving souls. I love to see them enjoy the precious light God has given me for them. O, how Jesus rejoiced when a place was found for the truth in the heart of the woman of Samaria. The disciples brought Him food and *'prayed Him, saying, Master, eat, but He said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of... Jesus said unto them My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work. Say ye not there are yet four months and then cometh harvest? Behold I say unto you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields for they are white already to harvest.'* Yes, Lord, I look, I see the fields, and I see them white unto the harvest. The words given me of God may find no place in the hearts of those who have heard them so many times, but there are fields all white ready to harvest, just such cases as this Samaritan woman, **apparently the most unlikely will become the heralds of truth while those who**

have had great light will be passed by, wise and prudent they see not the workings of God, but the truth will be revealed to babes, and they will respond to it.”

The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials -PG- 800

“And yet we feel a want of that spiritual life and power which the work of the times demands. We hunger and thirst for righteousness, and claim the promise ‘**Ye shall be filled.**’ Here we consecrate all to the cause of God. Will He accept the poor remnant of life? and permit us to finish our course with joy? **Eternity will be none too long to give expression of gratitude for the privilege of laboring on in the work** we entered upon in youth.” -- Aug. 26, 1880

Ellen G. White Volume 3 The Lonely Years 1876-1891 -PG- 145

“Brethren and sisters, we must take into consideration the fact that we are on missionary soil as labourers together with God. Just as soon as the standard is linked in one locality, and it is safe to leave the converts new to the faith, we must plan to enter another new field. And we find that it is as has been represented to me in the visions of the night. The words of Christ to His disciples were: *‘My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work. Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal, that he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.’*”

(Australasian) Union Conference Record -DT- 10-15-1898

“Brethren and sisters, have no fears that I shall become disheartened by the cruel attacks of my enemies. I expect them in greater measure, and only wonder that they have not been more frequent. Think of Jesus. How much was said against Him. How He was despised and hated. See Him laboring for a short time in one place, and then forced to hasten to another to save His life, that He might finish His work, and give to the world the light of a pure and noble example. We may strengthen our faith and quicken our love by going often to the foot of the cross, and there contemplating our Saviour's humiliation. Behold the Majesty of Heaven suffering as a transgressor! Spotless purity, untarnished righteousness, did not shield Him from falsehood and reproach. He meekly bore the contradiction of sinners against Himself, and yielded up His life, that we might be forgiven and live forevermore. Are we willing to follow in His steps? The only reason why we do not now suffer greater persecution is, we do not in our lives more faithfully exemplify the life of Christ. I assure you, brethren and sisters, if you walk as He walked, you will know what it is to be persecuted and reproached for His sake.”

Second Advent Review and Sabbath Herald -DT- 08-28-1883

“O Lord, Thou knowest all about it. I need not tell Thee anything. But Lord, I will confess all Thou hast spoken. Take me, O Lord; Thou hast bought me; I am Thine. So I give myself to Thee, Lord, this morning, body, soul, and spirit to be devoted to Thee, to be consecrated to Thee, to be purified by Thee, to be cleansed by Thee, to be molded and shaped by Thee, conformed to the image of Thy dear Son, that I may walk worthy of Thee, dear Lord, and glorify Thee on earth, and finish the work which Thou hast given me to do.”

The Kress Collection -PG- 39

“Looking unto Jesus, not only as our example, but as the author and finisher of our faith. Remember this! As at our baptism we pledged ourselves to Him and received the ordinance in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, these three great powers of Heaven pledged Themselves to work in our behalf, not only to begin, but to finish our faith. I am so glad that we have the **Promises of God.**”

The General Conference Bulletin -DT- 04-14-1901

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Christ
Our Perfect
Example



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Directions:

- ❖ Print page 1 on yellow paper.
- ❖ Print pages 2 - 5 (quotes) back to back on 24 lb white paper
- ❖ Print pages 6 & 7 back to back on white cardstock (67lb or heavier; after printing page 6 flip paper vertically ↓ to print page 7)
- ❖ Print page 8 or 9 on a 4.25" x 9.5" envelope (depending on the type of printer you have, page 8 if envelope loads on the right side of the printer, or page 9 if printer loads envelope in the center)
- ❖ Fold appeal in 3 even sections (Z-fold)
- ❖ Fold collection of quotes in 3 even sections (Z-fold)
- ❖ Cut cards (pages 6 & 7)
- ❖ Place 1 appeal, 1 set of quotes, and 1 card in each envelope.
- ❖ **PLEASE!!! Hand out and/or mail to all church members, Christian family members and friends!**
- ❖ **Let us keep each other awake, so when the Lord will soon appear in the clouds of heaven, He would find us in diligent labor! By our devoted faithful efforts we can hasten His return!**