

Leadership 101

Lesson 4: INFLUENCE

New Life Pentecostal Church

Influence

We are all being influenced by others. We constantly influence others. Leadership = influence. In many different settings you may either be a leader or a follower depending upon who has the influence. A parent influences their children until they leave the house. At school their class mates and teacher take the influence. Returning home, media may then influence them until another stronger influence takes that role. We try to influence those we work with; sales people try to influence us. In church we are hopefully influenced by the people around us. No one is the primary influencer all the time. No one is completely without influence.

Influence and Social Structures

Custom dictates when and where people can give influence. It is considered improper to bring up certain topics in certain settings. People actually give permission on when they are willing to be influenced. You cannot successfully influence people against their will. Management dictates, Leadership guides, but influence has the ability to attract and persuade.

Management is Position (what your Position is and who must obey you),
Leadership is Mission (what is your Mission and who will follow you),
Influence is Relationship (what your Relationship is and who is persuaded by you)

The relationship of influence can be as simple as a young lady telling you that she will be your server in a restaurant, and you then ask her to recommend a good dish. The relationship can be as complex as a parent finally being asked by his children for some advice on how to conduct their life.

To be able to influence people you must first have the correct **relationship** and then they must give you **permission**. You cannot force your influence on people or the relationship will regress back to Management level again. A 'servant leader' understands the value of developing friendships for the purpose of being able to influence others to follow them - as they follow Christ.

Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

Amos 3:3

For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

2 Thessalonians 3:7

A man that hath friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother.

Proverbs 18:24

the God of the Hebrews, How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before me?
let my people go, that they may serve me. Exodus 10:3

Paul

Whether standing before a jailer or a ruler, Paul used his influence to persuade people to become Christians.

Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian. And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds.

Acts 26:28-29

The Nation of Israel

Probably the greatest scriptural example of 'people of influence' who failed to live up to their potential is the entire nation of Israel in the Old Testament. God placed them at the cross roads of three continents and in one generation changed them from separate tribes to a united kingdom under Solomon. Leaders of all nations poured into the streets of Jerusalem to see the wonders of the Kingdom. The Temple became the world's first 'tourist attraction' as God intended it to become a house of prayer for all people.

Israel is a luxuriant vine, that putteth forth his fruit: according to the abundance of his fruit he hath multiplied his altars; according to the goodness of their land they have made goodly pillars. Hosea 10:1

Thou brought a vine out of Egypt: Thou did drive out the nations, and planted it. Thou prepared room before it, and it took deep root, and filled the land. The mountains were covered with the shadow of it, and the boughs thereof were like cedars of God. It sent out its branches unto the sea, and its shoots unto the River. Why hast thou broken down its walls, So that all they that pass by the way do pluck it? Psalms 80:8-12

Abraham

Abraham used the social setting of the dinner table to bargain for the city of Sodom. He knew that once he had dined with someone that they had entered into a covenant of cooperation.

Abraham said, My lord, if now I have found favor in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant: let now a little water be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree: and I will fetch a morsel of bread, and strengthen ye your heart; after that ye shall pass on: forasmuch as ye are come to your servant. And they said, So do, as thou hast said. Genesis 18:2-5

And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou consume the righteous with the wicked? Peradventure there are fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou consume and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein? Genesis 18:23-24

Broadening Your Influence

All too often after a person becomes a Christian they lose their old acquaintances and begin to 'hang with the church crowd'. The Bible clearly teaches the need for believers to separate themselves from their old sinful lifestyle and from other believers who live in hypocrisy. However we are not to exit this world and enter a monastery for we have a job to do in reaching our world for Christ.

I wrote unto you in my epistle to have no company with fornicators; not at all meaning with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous and extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world: but as it is, I wrote unto you not to keep company, if any man that is named a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such a one no, not to eat.

1 Cor 5:9-11

While we are not to eat with those who may influence us for bad, we defiantly are to eat with those whom we may be able to influence for good. One of the strongest offerings of friendship is to feed someone from your own table. Jesus uses this 'dinner metaphor' to describe the relationship to those who open the door when he knocks.

Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Rev 3:20

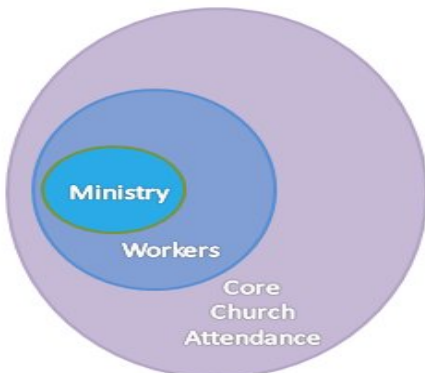
To betray someone with whom you have dined is an insult that is a betrayal of friendship and to eat with someone with whom you have been estranged is to offer them the right hand of fellowship. This is shown in the betrayal of Jesus by Judas after the last supper and the acceptance of Peter to eat with Cornelius and his family prior to the Gentiles being reached with the Gospel.

Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, Who did eat of my bread, Hath lifted up his heel against me.

Psalms 41:9

[The Jews said to Peter] Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised, and didst eat with them.

Act 11:3

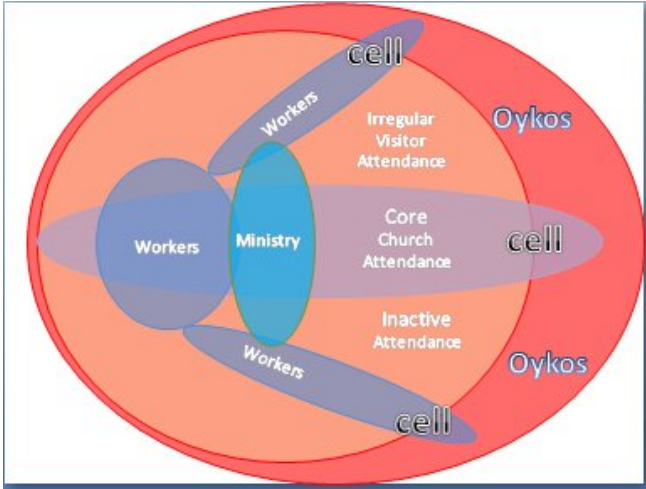


CHURCH GROWTH PATTERNS

Some feel that churches should grow according to the pattern shown below. This model shows the ministry at the center of activity with three outwardly growing concentric circles. Those who do the church work are at the center and the bulk of the membership (being the largest of the portion of the group) are on the fringes and have little or no work to do other than be faithful in attendance, uphold the standards and remain consistent in giving.

This model if followed will not result in any meaningful church growth of new converts to Christ. The New Life Pentecostal Enable Model is putting the work of the kingdom into the hands of the whole church.

The ministry exists to enable and equip the church. NLP will leverage each member's leadership and influence ability to do the brunt of the Kingdom Harvest work. We are taking the work out of the Barn (Church) and going as a team into the Field for the salvation of our generation. The model on the left shows the Ministry out of the center role and actually spanning across Core Church Attendees, Irregular and Inactive Members and Church Workers. The Ministry in this model touches and is involved with Workers and Members at all levels. Workers must carry an increased role in church services (circle), as well as in all outreach



efforts. Both Core Attendance and Church Workers are expected to be involved in piercing the three spheres of Irregular Attendees, Inactive Attendees as well as their own personal Oykos (Friends, Family, Coworkers and Neighbors) through involvement in Cell Groups.

YOUR PERSONAL INFLUENCE IN THE NLP CHURCH GROWTH MODEL

The model shown above will only work if sufficient personal commitment is given by NLP workers and Core Church Members to use their influence for good. Many good plans have failed not for lack of planning or even training. The cell ministry advocated by NLP is a proven method with both solid Biblical backing as well as an impressive 'in the field track record'. What is needed is commitment and involvement. Lack of faith or even fear has paralyzed many 'would be soul winners' from using their influence to share Christ. We do not ask to you work alone, we ask you to work with us. We need openings into your group. The church will grow and souls will be save from the people that you and I know and have contact with every day. You need to trust us to faithfully fulfill the commission given to us by our Lord in bringing the Gospel to your household (Oykos) in a manner that will not offend them.

A CLEAR PLAN OF ACTION

New Life Pentecostal Church purposes to fulfill the Great Commission by

- Equipping all of our Core Members
 - Providing Leadership training
 - Providing Outreach (Search for Truth) Training
 - Providing Family Ministry Training
- Actively reaching into all spheres of our influence
 - Attracting our personal Oykos Groups with family hospitality
 - Influencing our Oykos Groups with Cell involvement
 - ✦ Hot Topic focus groups for initial involvement
 - ✦ Long Term Cell groups for teaching and fellowship
 - Reengaging inactive members to try us again
 - Encouraging irregular members to join us in this work
- Providing a Crusade Environment in our church services for a mighty move of the Holy Ghost for all who attend
 - Focusing on the needs of those coming to Christ in our Sunday service

CALL TO ACTION

Abraham was told to go out of his tent and count the stars. This was an act of faith. I am asking you to go outside of the church and count your Oykos. List all name of those whom you have contact with in a single week. Bring this list back to the leadership class next week for prayer and action. Try to be aware of three people from each of the groups listed. Believe that this list and the subsequent prayer and Enable efforts may be used by God for the salvation of their souls.

First Name	Last Name	Type of Contact	Have they attended NLP?
		Work	
		Work	
		Work	
		Family	
		Family	
		Family	
		Neighbor	
		Neighbor	
		Neighbor	
		Friend	
		Friend	
		Friend	
		Shopping	
		Shopping	
		Shopping	
		Other	