

“Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” — John 12:21

The Prime Influencer: A Loving Mother

“Do not be deceived: ‘Bad company ruins good morals.’” 1 Corinthians 15:33

Today, the term “influencer” has come to mean “a person who has the power to influence many people, as through social media or traditional media.” Some of these social media icons have millions of followers and our kids listen to them and are... influenced by them. As a parent, it’s possible that you are being displaced.

I have to say that I am glad that I wasn’t a kid during this period of history. It’s way too complicated. My “influencers” were, in this order, (1) my mom and (1a) dad; (2) Paul Peterson on the Donna Reed show; (3) a few friends here and there.

Mom was number one. Dad worked a lot and I never held that against him. I learned my work ethic from him. But mom was, literally, always there for me. She was always at home doing at-homey things (and once-in-awhile doing a crossword puzzle).

When I was in second grade, I wrote a couple of paragraphs and they got published in our local newspaper. I have no idea why. My mom said something like, “David, you’re a good writer.” Later, I wrote a little piece on going to the moon (this was about 15 years before anyone actually went to the moon) and I got a lot of attaboys from my teacher and even more from my mom.

My point is that for the first 18 years of my life, at least, Evangeline Myers Posey was my biggest cheerleader, my prime “influencer.” It was not a couple of YouTube guys or Superheroes or celebrities. We didn’t have “YouTube” back then, but we did have original Superman. But, hands down, mom was # 1. She had a knack for finding the good in just about anything — even in my amateurish essays.

That’s what moms do. Dads excel at hands-on instruction, but mothers major in encouragement and morale-boosting. There is a natural bond between a mother and child, of course — maybe that’s why they are so good at the uplifting message thing.

Thinking about this, I find a little phrase in Proverbs 4:3-4 interesting:

“...real life influencers who live in the same house with you and love you and are there for you 24/7 are the best. Why would you rely on YouTube or Instagram when you have that?”

When I was a son with my father, tender, the only one in the sight of my mother, he taught me and said to me, “Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live.”

“The only one in the sight of my mother.” Dad’s are “head of the house.” They are in charge of the big picture stuff and, in a way, a son is a project. I don’t mean that in a bad way. I mean it in a Proverbs 22:6 way;

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

Good dads make it a priority to train their children to live in the real world. The best ones put the emphasis on spiritual things and character building.

To a mom though, having a child is like *“having your heart go walking around outside your body”* (Elizabeth Stone). Moms, at their best,

make each child feel like they are the only child. Sort of like God does.

Though I had a little brother, I usually felt I was the “only one in the sight of my mother.” (I know my brother felt that way, too, and, later on, my sisters). For me, it was her “can do” attitude that inspired me. From the beginning, if I ever said “I can’t” she had one response: “can’t never did anything.” She did finally have to admit that I probably wasn’t going to be a carpenter like my dad. But she broke it to me gently.

She opens her mouth with wisdom,
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
Proverbs 31:26

My mother was my “Influencer.” And I have to say that real life influencers who live in the same house with you and love you and are there for you 24/7 are the best. Why would you rely on YouTube videos or Instagram when you have that?

I doubt my mother ever knew how important she was in my life. I hope some of you moms realize how important you are. Your kids may never tell you until they realize it some day in the future and say to themselves, “my mom really was the most important influencer in my life. I wish she was here so I could tell her.”

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