

Sailing The 'C's' Of Influence

Influence

- “The ability to change the course of someone’s future.”
- Each of us influences for good or bad –

Bad: 1 K.3, Solomon (11:1-3)

Good: Esther 4:14

- World is against us. How can we influence others for good?

How can we influence others for good?

I. Character, Mt.5:13-16
Be what you are

Description: salt of earth

- Their delight (3-12)
- Their duty (be salty; shine)

Warning: unsalty salt is thrown out

Warning: light must shine, or else

- Jebel Usdum
- “You are” ... salt, 13
 - Emphatic / Specific
 - Preserves
 - Flavors. Hb.6:4; 1 Pt.2:3



Description: salt of earth

Danger: do not lose your flavor

Salt from Jebel Usdum was often impure. Mixed with other minerals; or sodium chloride could leach out – lose saltiness. Christians face danger of getting mixed up with world's dirt...

Description: salt of earth
Danger: do not lose your flavor

Destiny to avoid: thrown out...

13 So he said, “What kind of cities are these which you have given me, my brother?” And he called them the land of **Cabul**, as they are to this day – 1 Kings 9

- ‘Good for nothing’
- Mt.5:13, salt becomes ‘good for nothing’

Description: salt of earth
Danger: do not lose your flavor
Destiny to avoid: thrown out...

Design: light to shine, 14-15

Another emphatic 'you'

- World in darkness; sun seen by all.

¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" – Jn.8

- Like the moon, we reflect the 'Son'
- Mt.28:19; Ph.2:15

Description: salt of earth
Danger: do not lose your flavor
Destiny to avoid: thrown out...

Design: light to shine, 14-15

Another emphatic 'you'

- World in darkness; sun seen by all.
- City: seen in neighborhood. >Tertullian

⁸ “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light” – Eph.5

- We must be 'different'

Description: salt of earth
Danger: do not lose your flavor
Destiny to avoid: thrown out...

Design: light to shine, 14-15

Another emphatic 'you'

- World in darkness; sun seen by all.
- City: seen in neighborhood.
- House (15): seen by family.
 - Sweet at work, sour at home?

Description: salt of earth
Danger: do not lose your flavor
Destiny to avoid: thrown out...
Design: light to shine, 14-15

Danger: hide light, 15

- “They light...” = normal; what people do.
[Shine, not hide]
- Do we give light to all in the house?

16 “No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts it under a bed, but sets it on a lampstand, that those who enter may see the light” – Lk.8

Description: salt of earth
Danger: do not lose your flavor
Destiny to avoid: thrown out...
Design: light to shine, 14-15
Danger: hide light, 15

Distinction: let your light so shine...16

- ‘So shine’ (as 14-15)
 - “May see your good works”
 - “Glorify your Father...”
- Contrast: 6:1, 2, 5, 16

When we become like world, we lose influence on it (Ro.12:1-2).

Have I made anyone thirsty for Jesus?

How can we influence others for good?

I. Character, Mt.5:13-16

Be what you are

II. Concern, Mt.18:6-9

My brother's keeper

Whoever causes to stumble...

Causes to sin (stumble) 6

- Better for him...
 - Sin: against God
 - Worse: lead others to sin
 - Millstone [of donkey]
 - Depths of sea
- What could be worse? 8-9



8: 'cut off' / eternal fire

9: 'pluck out' / hell fire

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7: **'woe'** (2x) – Influence is powerful tool for good or evil

How can we influence others for good?

I. Character, Mt.5:13-16

Be what you are

II. Concern, Mt.18:6-9

My brother's keeper

III. Consistency, Ro.2:17-24

Practice what you preach

Consistency – a rare virtue

17	Wear the name	Profession
18	Know, approve	Knowledge
19-20	Guide	Superiority
21-22	Preach one way, practice another	Hypocrisy
23-24	Dishonor God	Blasphemy

What hypocrites do

1. Discourage saints, 17-18
2. Deceive seekers, 19-20
3. Disobey Scriptures, 21-22
4. Disgrace Savior, 23
5. Disillusion sinners, 24

David,
2 Sm.12:14

Christians,
1 Tim.6:1

We are judged by . . .

What we do

Looks matter

How we look

Words matter

What we say

Conduct matters

Where we go