

FAITH IN ACTION: HOW CAN I BETTER INFLUENCE PEOPLE FOR JESUS CHRIST?

Discussion question: should we want to better influence people for Jesus? Why?

How can I better influence people for Jesus Christ? Here are some of the key biblical principles:

- 1) Realize I am not alone. I can partner with and tap into the power of Jesus and the Holy Spirit! (Phil 4:13; Acts 1:8).
- 2) I need to be humble, and not think I'm better than other people (parable of Pharisee and the Tax Collector – Luke 18:9-14).
- 3) I need to develop a heart for the lost, more like Jesus heart! (Mat 9:35-38; Luke 19:10; Luke chapter 15 Parables: “Lost Sheep” v. 1-7, “Lost Coin” v. 8-10, “Lost Son” v. 11-32).
- 4) I need to have a heart of compassion, and willingness to leave my comfort zone to help others, including the less fortunate (parable of Good Samaritan – Luke 10:25-37; Luke 14:12-14).
- 5) I need to consistently live out the Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12). “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and Prophets”. The Golden Rule is closely related to part two of the Great Command – “love our neighbors as ourselves” (Mat 22:34-40).

The version found in other religions tends to be based on selfish reciprocity (i.e. “I won’t hurt you because I hope, in return, you won’t hurt me”). Jesus’ version is positive and proactive, and requires selfless generosity and compassion. Treating people positively like we would want to be treated includes treating a person with:

Love	Grace	Forgiveness	Compassion
Generosity	Appreciation	Goodness	Empathy
Good Manners	Peace	Kindness	Mercy
Others??			

How can I apply the Golden Rule to:

- People in Romans 12?
- Others in the church?
- People at work?
- Neighbors?
- Friends? Family members?
- People that serve me at restaurants, hair stylists, grocery workers, garbage men, etc?

What Kind of Christian am I? A Christian who “repels” or “attracts” unbelievers?

Kinds that repel:

- 1) In-Your-Face Christians
- 2) Greeting Card Christians
- 3) Holier-than-thou Christians

4) Cosmetic Christians

Christians that Attract:

“Costly” Christians

“Compassionate” Christians

“Consistent” Christians