

“STEWARDING YOUR INFLUENCE”

Sunday, September 25, 2016

In this series we are placing a special emphasis on service—our serving God in the sphere of influence He has placed each one of us in.

1 Corinthians 4:2 Moreover it is **required** in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

A “*steward*” was like an estate manager. They are entrusted with the care of the property but do not have ownership of it. A “*steward*” was entrusted with something of great value.

1 Thessalonians 5:24 Faithful *is* **He** that calleth you, **Who** also will do *it*.

Whatever God calls you to do, remember that He is faithful to give you the grace to do it.

† **Stewarding God’s Word**

Q: How can we be faithful in stewarding God’s Word?

First by understanding its worth. See the value of God’s Word (2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 119:105).

Second, respond to God’s Word in worship by being diligent in it, directed by it, and devoted to it. Humbly approach God’s Word with a teachable spirit seeking to hear what God has to say to you and then obey.

† **Stewarding your Influence**

God has placed each of us in a sphere of ***influence***. Your sphere of ***influence*** deals with your friends and family members that God has placed around you. It also includes your neighbors, co-workers, acquaintances, and total strangers that you come into contact with. These are people in your sphere of ***influence*** that God has intentionally allowed to be in a position to be ***influenced*** by you.

Your faithfulness to God determines your effectiveness of Godly influence.

Lewis Sperry Chafer (Chafer's Doctrinal Summarization) – The Greek word for **providence** suggests the directing care of God over things animate and inanimate—embracing things both good and evil—especially over those who are yielded to His will.

Providence is the divine outworking of all decrees, the object being the final manifestation of God's glory. He directs all things perfectly, no doubt, yet without compelling the human will. He works in man the desire to do His will (Philippians 2:13). The doctrine accordingly is full of comfort.

I. Be Faithful in times of _____ (Genesis 37; 39:1-6)

Joseph must have resisted the greatest danger in the test of persecution—the **temptation to become bitter**.

One who is bitter is not a Godly influence. One who is bitter does not have a testimony that brings glory to God.

II. Be Faithful in times of _____ (Gen. 39:7-20)

While he lost his coat, he kept his character.

1 Corinthians 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but **God** is faithful, **Who** will not suffer [allow] you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear [endure] it.

III. Be Faithful in times of _____ (Gen. 39:21-40:23)

The “*LORD was with him*” speaks of Joseph being led by God. In order for this to be taking place Joseph had to have been humbly following Him

IV. Be Faithful in times of _____ (Gen. 41 & 50:15-26)

Q: Do you see God’s providence? Do you see God’s hand at work moving the pieces into place, guiding Joseph, being with Him for every step?

God used this time of suffering to set the stage for the influence He planned for Joseph.

Consider the test of prosperity.

Consider Joseph’s grace

Genesis 45:8 So now *it was* not you *that* sent me hither, but **God**: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

In his response we see, on full display, God’s in-working of grace and Godliness in Joseph’s life.

Genesis 50:20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; *but* **God** meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as *it is* this day, to save much people alive.

What is my next step?

Q: So what about you? What aspects of your life have you been failing to see God's hand of providence working in you to bring your best for His glory?

Q: What areas of influence have you been failing to faithfully steward Godly influence?

Q: What relationships have you been failing to consider your influence and in turn failing in your influence?

Q: What trials and testings have you failed to allow God's hand to bring you to a greater sphere of influence?

Romans 8:28-29 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love **God**, to them who are the called according to **His** purpose. **29** For whom **He** did foreknow, **He** also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that **He** might be the firstborn among many brethren.

(Put off) What must I *put off* that is both hinder my walk with Christ or someone else's?

(Renew your mind) What qualities or Words of Christ must I meditate upon?

(Put on) What qualities of Christ must I seek to have as a characteristic of my life?



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