



Becoming a Person of Positive Influence in Your Home

→ Do you find home life harder than work life? Why is that? What temptations / dangers are there? What especially does parenthood test? Why is it so important to work on / grow in your role as spouse, parent / grandparent?

Def of Leadership: Leadership is INFLUENCE; nothing more, nothing less.

* i.e. Leadership is simply my OPPORTUNITY to exercise POSITIVE INFLUENCE over those I lead.

* Influence (Oxford Dictionary): The capacity to have effect on the CHARACTER, DEVELOPMENT OR BEHAVIOUR of someone or something.

→ What do you think of this definition of leadership? How does it apply in the home? How do you influence? Why is long-term influence so powerful?

→ What was your parents' influence like? What was positive? What was negative? What are the extremes of positive and negative influence that spring to mind?

There's a tension between CONTROL and INFLUENCE.

* Seen people trying to control by SHOUTING louder, emotional MANIPULATION, REWARD + SANCTION.

* Andy Stanley: "I learnt to parent with RELATIONSHIP, rather than BEHAVIOUR MODIFICATION in mind."

→ Why is control ineffective? How do you try to control things that, in reality, are out of your control? Does that change as your children become older?

→ What is the difference between parenting with relationship in mind versus behaviour modification in mind? Which of those comes first? Does relationship grow out of obedience or obedience grow out of relationship?

Our primary job as parents is to INFLUENCE children towards DESIRED OUTCOMES, according to a strong set of VALUES.

* i.e. To exert LONG, STRONG, CONSISTENT influence over our children in pursuit of the values JESUS taught us.

→ What values did Jesus teach us? Any that are particularly relevant to parenting? Or leading in general? What are your top parenting values? Have you discussed those with your spouse? Would he or she agree with your choice?

HOW DO I BECOME A PERSON OF POSITIVE INFLUENCE IN MY HOME?

1. Leading by EXAMPLE means GOING FIRST

* Who's going to SERVE first, FORGIVE first, SHOW GRACE first, APOLOGISE first?

* Teach your children good HABITUAL RESPONSES → MANNERS, PATIENCE, FAITH, PRAYERFULNESS, etc.

→ Is example your most powerful influence? Why is it so important to practise what you preach? If your children followed your example in manners / patience / faith / prayerfulness, how would feel about that?

2. Model SERVING

* I want to serve my kids, not so that I become their DOORMAT, but so that I MODEL it for them (Matthew 20:28, Philippians 2:5-8).

* We need to teach them to be GIVERS not just TAKERS.

* So, it's not ALL ABOUT THEM.

→ How do you get the balance right here? Do you 'over-serve' your children? How do you effectively teach them to serve, particularly if it doesn't come naturally to them?

→ Is 'all about them' the doorway to a miserable, unfulfilled life?

3. Teach ETERNAL VALUES over TEMPORARY COMFORT

* In a world that so strongly emphasises the MATERIAL, SELF-PROMOTION, MORAL RELATIVITY, how do we teach our children that the ETERNAL is more important?

* That it's about PLEASING, OBEYING, FOLLOWING God (Matthew 6:25-34, esp v33, Colossians 3:1-3).

* They're going to have many STRONG influences TUGGING in the OPPOSITE DIRECTION.

* What VALUES will they pick up from YOU?

→ "Over 18 years, you're going to teach your children a lot about that!" What influences are tugging on them? What is your lifestyle teaching them? What values do your calendar and bank statements reveal?

4. Don't HIDE from the TOUGH

* We must learn and teach the art of SPEAKING the TRUTH in LOVE.

* We must learn when LOVE must be TOUGH.

* We must teach DIPLOMACY, PROBLEM-SOLVING, CONFLICT-RESOLUTION.

→ Are you an ostrich (with your head in the sand)? How do you do with conflict? Is what your children seeing at home, teaching them good or habit things about conflict? Is arguing bad? Is it possible to do it well? What makes 'good' conflict?

5. Allow MISTAKES to be made, but RESTORE gently and fully

* CONSEQUENCES are such powerful LEARNING EXPERIENCES.

* We learn our most significant lessons from our biggest MISTAKES; we grow most through our toughest TRIALS.

* Resist the temptation to PROTECT our children from NEGATIVE consequences.

→ Do you agree that we learn best from trials, mistakes, even negative consequences? Why is it so tempting to protect our children from negative consequences? Do you? What can we learn from the way Jesus allowed Peter to fall, then restored him so well?

FOR YOU

→ Does Jesus have CONTROL of your life? Does Jesus have LEADERSHIP in your life? How much INFLUENCE do you give Him?

→ "The more influence you let JESUS have on YOU, the more positive and effective influence YOU will have on your CHILDREN." Discuss

RESPONSE

1. What influence are you exerting? → +ve or -ve, healthy or damaging, intentional or accidental?

2. Is it control or influence you seek? → Is it time to loosen control + concentrate on influence? Relationship rather than behaviour modification?

3. What values are you going to build home on? → I've suggested 5, what are your 5?