

GOSPEL INFLUENCE

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As disciples and “sent ones” of Jesus, who are called to live as ambassadors of reconciliation and bring ***gospel influence*** to those far from God, what things do we need to remember, as we try to orient our lives around making disciples in the power of the Holy Spirit? What things should consistently guide us in our relationships with not yet believers?

We don’t control the change in the lives of non-Christians. Spiritual change comes from God! But there are things we do control in how we bring gospel influence to a person, people, or neighborhood.

There are at least 5 big areas that we do control:

PRAYER

Listening and depending on the Holy Spirit to know who, how, when, and where to bring gospel influence. (The Holy Spirit is the “proclaimer” of Jesus – John 15:26-27, John 16:12-15.) Also, praying that our compassion for the lost and passion to see them restored to God would continually grow.

PROXIMITY

Being in close enough proximity to people that they can see how Jesus affects the details of our lives. Proximity also leads to “true” friendship and trust, which are usually needed in a relationship, before the gospel can be clearly demonstrated and communicated. **This proximity requires for us to pursue relationship with not yet believers** and to orient our lives and schedules around spending quality time loving and serving them.

COMPELLING LIFESTYLE

How we live our lives individually, with our spouse and children, and as a missional community CAN be a powerful apologetic for the gospel. We want people to see us work, lead our marriages, raise our children, spend our time and money, recreate, and relate with others with a focus on Jesus and His purposes. And, **our lives should be “attractive” to others**, because of the Spirit’s work in producing His fruit in our lives.

DEMONSTRATION

Tangibly serving others and demonstrating Jesus’ desire to restore all things. **Consistently demonstrating generosity, compassion, sacrifice, kindness, grace, etc. in our relationships with unbelievers.** Things like blessing people with meals, cookies, yard work, help with house projects, babysitting, loaning our possessions, gifts, etc.



PROCLAMATION

Verbally declaring the “good news” of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection for all of mankind. **People need to not only see and experience the gospel but need to clearly hear the truth about God’s story and His pursuit of them through Jesus.**

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- Does your heart break for your lost friends and neighbors? Do you pray that the Spirit would do more of that work in your heart?
- Who are the unbelievers you are trying to bring gospel influence to?
- How and how often are you trying to do that?
- How could you and your Missional Community grow in each of the 5 areas in the coming months?
- What are some specific things you need to stop doing or start doing to help make this possible?
- What are some barriers that are keeping you from making these changes to orient your life around Jesus’ mission to make disciples?

