LEADERSHIP IS INFLUENCE

There are many definitions of leadership and almost as many myths about what leadership is. Many people are unsure whether or not they are leaders because they have assumed that leaders come in a certain type of packaging. Some people fill a leadership role because of the position they hold either paid or volunteer, but holding a position does not guarantee the ability to fulfill that leadership role or the desire to do so. J. Oswald Sanders said that leadership is influence—nothing more and nothing less. At this level, leadership is the business of everyone because everyone influences someone.

Brainstorming: Think of your own life. Who has had the most POSITIVE influence in your life? What qualities come to mind when you think about the actions or words of that individual? List them here.

You influence the people you come in contact with on a daily basis whether you are aware of it or not. List the names of these individuals below in each of these areas.

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<th>At Home</th>
<th>At Work</th>
<th>At Church</th>
<th>Friends/Others</th>
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Christians have debated the subject of leadership for centuries. Is it biblical to lead? Are we not called to be followers, instead of leaders? Are we not called to be servants instead of rulers? Can we honestly believe that leadership is a biblical idea?

When we study the Bible closely, we see that leadership is, indeed, God’s idea. God is not only the Ultimate Leader, but He has called us to lead as well. Consider this. The first description of mankind in the Bible involves leadership. God designed us to lead, to have authority and take dominion.

According to Genesis 1:26-31, you and I were born to lead. Study this Scripture...

"Then God said, 'Let Us make every man in Our image, and in Our likeness; let them rule over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’" (Genesis 1:26)

1. Being made in God’s image means we were created to lead.
2. God gave humans authority over the whole earth.
3. If God told us to rule, He also gave the ability to do it.

God never commands us to do anything without enabling us to do it. You and I have the ability to lead because God created us and commanded us to do so. Based on your gifts and personality (not position), you have the ability to lead and influence.

According to Matthew 5:13-16, you and I have INFLUENCE. Study this Scripture...

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? ...You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do men light a lamp, and put it under a basket, but on a lamp stand; and it gives light to all who are in the house. So, let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Salt influences the food we eat. Light influences the homes in which we live. Jesus is calling us to embrace our calling to influence wherever we are.

LEADERSHIP IS INFLUENCE

EVERYONE HAS SOME INFLUENCE
LEADERSHIP IS INFLUENCE

Tim Elmore shares the following statistic, “Sociologists tell us that even the most introverted individual will influence ten thousand other people during his or her lifetime!” John Maxwell reminds us that:

- We never know who or how much we influence
- Influence is a skill that can be developed
- A person does not have the same level of influence with everyone
- Influence can be either negative or positive
- Faithful leaders use their influence to add value
- With influence comes responsibility

In his book, “Becoming A Person of Influence”, John Maxwell says, “If you want to become someone who can positively influence other people, you need to develop the following qualities of integrity and live them out every day.”

Model consistency of character

Employ honest communication

Exemplify humility

Fulfill your purpose

Embrace an attitude of service

Encourage two-way participation
LEADERSHIP IS INFLUENCE

Do people know they can trust me to keep my word and do what I say?
Do I operate in the open avoiding hidden agendas and going behind people’s backs?
Do I honor confidentiality?
Do I demonstrate respect for other people regardless of their actions?
Do I carry my share of the load without needing to be monitored or prodded?
Am I honest with people in all things without being hurtful or counterproductive?
Would those close to me say I am a dedicated family member, friend or employee?
Can I say that I live by the Golden Rule treating people the way I want to be treated?
Am I an encourager for others around me?
Would others say they feel that I really do care about them?
How am I at really listening to what other people are saying?
Am I a model for ethical behavior?
Am I manipulative of others or do I encourage their active participation?
Am I able to put other people’s agenda ahead of my own?
Can I readily admit my own mistakes?

My life shall touch a dozen lives before the day is done.
Leave countless marks for good or ill ere sets the evening sun,
This is the wish I always wish, the prayer I always pray;
Lord, may my life help others lives it touches by the way.

Anonymous

Sources Used:
Maxwell, John. Developing The Leader Within You & Becoming A Person of Influence
Maxwell, John. Million Leaders Mandate—Series One, Notebook One, Lesson One.
Lawrence, James. Growing Leaders.