

# A CHURCH OF INFLUENCE

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Building a Lasting Legacy

# Who has influenced your life?



# Bernie Madoff





# Mother Teresa



# What is Influence?

- Webster, “The capacity or power of persons or things to be a compelling force on or produce effects on the actions, behavior, opinions, etc., of others.”
- Our definition: “The ability to change the course of someone’s future.”

There is never IMPACT  
without INFLUENCE.

# **PRIMARY PRINCIPLES FOR UNDERSTANDING INFLUENCE**

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# 1. Everybody has influence.

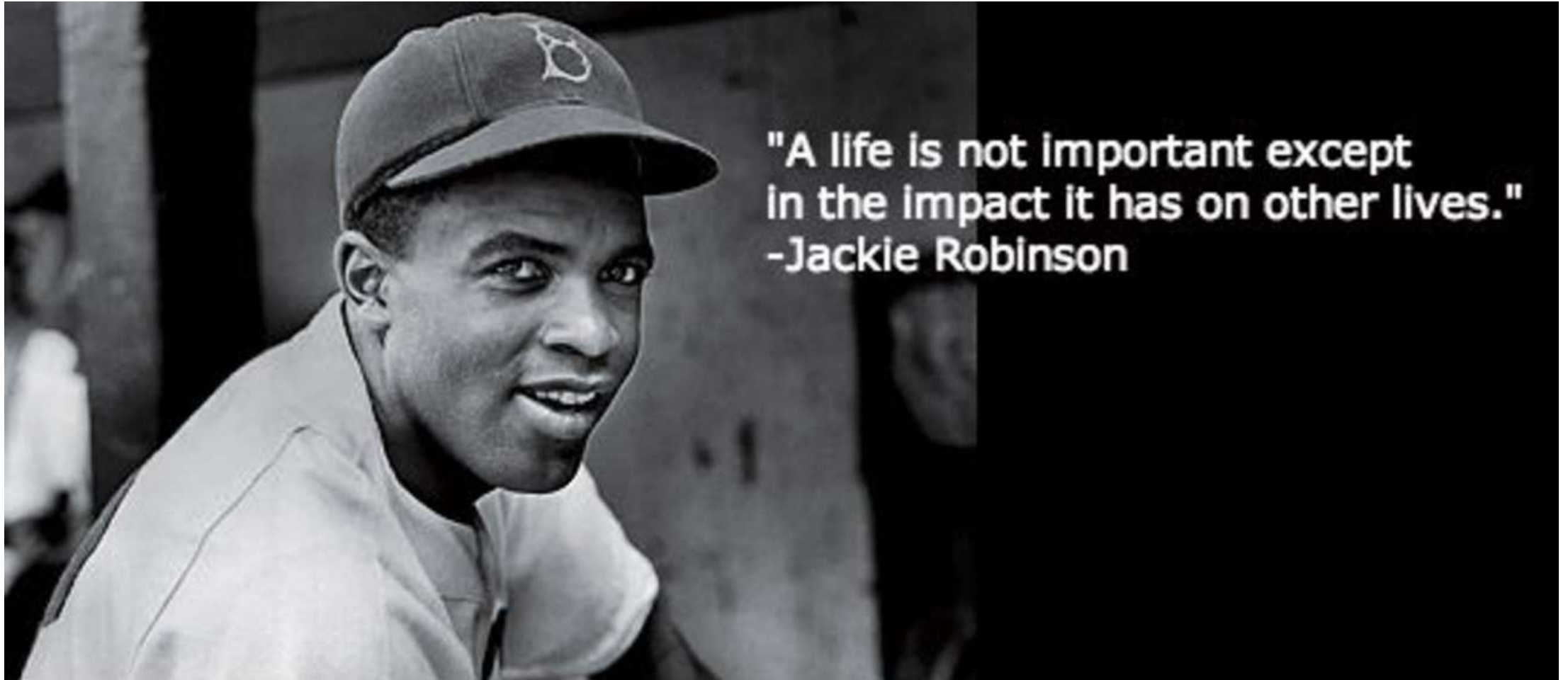
- Some have more -- some less
- You have far more than you realize.
- What influence is NOT:
  1. Not a position
  2. Not authority
  3. Not fame
  4. Not wealth



## 2. Influence can be **positive** or **negative**.

- How will you choose to use it?
- We are always influencing others...even when we are not conscious of it.
- *"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12).*

## 2. Influence can be positive or negative.



### 3. God expects me to *use* the influence he's given to me.

- Influence is like a muscle.
- Influence must be exercised – it will grow and increase
- Be intentional about using your influence.



## 4. My influence is for the benefit of others.

- He gives you influence because He uses people to help other people.
- It's not about you.
- Positive Influencers add value to others.
- Philip in Samaria; Acts 8:1-4
- *"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."* Prov. 27:17

## 4. My influence is for the benefit of others.

- Do you want to impress or influence?
- Influence only occurs up close and personal.
- *The good influence of godly citizens causes a city to prosper, but the moral decay of the wicked drives it downhill. Prov. 11:11*

## 5. If I'm not influencing them, *they're influencing me.*

- The potential influence of the Canaanites.
- Jeremiah 15:19 (NLT)
- Luke 20:21; 21 *"Teacher," they said, "we know that you speak and teach what is right and are not influenced by what others think. You teach the way of God truthfully."*

## 6. The **greatest contributor** of influence is **trust**.

- Three Key Influencers:
  1. People Trust You
  2. People Respect You
  3. People Like You



# **THE PURPOSE OF OUR INFLUENCE**

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# 1. There are **two legitimate reasons** for your influence.

1. **Mission** – promoting the gospel
2. **Ministry** – serving and helping others

Psalm 72 – Solomon's prayer for influence

- *God I want you to give me more wealth and more power and more influence.*

Why? To speak up for the unfortunate and marginalized. Psalm 72:4

## 2. The purpose of influence is to speak up **for those with none.**

Psalm 72 – Solomon's prayer for influence

- *God I want you to give me more wealth and more power and more influence.*

Why? To speak up for the unfortunate and marginalized.

Psalm 72:4



### 3. God will **judge** how I use my influence.

- Matthew 12:36; *And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every word you speak.*
- I Corinthians 3:10-17 – *“their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person’s work.”*

# Two Images of Influence

# Matthew 5:13-16

13 You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

14 You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

# We are called to be Salt.

- The meaning –
  - Salt was a necessity of life in ancient times
  - It was considered valuable – used for currency
- The application –
  1. Seasoning
  2. Preserving



# We are called to be Salt.

- Charles Spurgeon, “ To be salt, we do not have to be spectacular or sensational...just salty.”
- Warning: Salt is not useful sitting in the salt-shaker



# We are called to be Light.

- Jesus was the Light of the world.
- John 8:12; When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

# We are called to be Light.

- As believers, we are to be light in darkness.
- Eph. 5:8-11; *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.*



# We are called to be Light.

- Light dispels darkness
- Light causes growth
- Light gives direction
- We are to:
  1. Let our light shine
  2. Don't hide or limit our light



# **SIX WAYS TO MAKE THE GREATEST IMPACT WITH OTHERS**

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# 1. Our Integrity

- “The first key to greatness is to be in reality what we appear to be.” Socrates
- Image is what people think we are—Integrity is what we are!
- It’s not as much what we do as who we are.
- Proverbs 10:9 -- Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out

## 2. Our Words

- Words are powerful influencers
- “Kind words are like honey, sweet to the soul and healthy for the body.” Proverbs 16:24
- “Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear



# 3. Our Attitude

- Philippians 2:5; You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.



# 3. Our Attitude

- Attitudes are contagious
- “Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference.” Winston Churchill

# 4. Our Lifestyle

- 1 Timothy 4:2 -- Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

Three Essential Examples:

1. Authenticity
2. Consistency
3. Upright living

# 5. Our Care for others

- People don't care what you know until they know that you care.
- Romans 12:4-5: "Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

# 6. Our Prayers

- The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective –James 5:16
- Pray in the Spirit on all occasions. . . . With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. — Ephesians 6:18
- *"Talking to men for God is a great thing, but talking to God for men is greater still."* E.M. Bounds

# FINAL THOUGHTS FOR WALKING IN INFLUENCE

# 1. Increased influence will always require a price to be paid.

- The price of influence is criticism
- The more influence, the more criticism



## 2. Your Influence can Grow through Four Levels.

- The fact is that we have differing levels of influence with others.
- Influence grows by stages or levels – it can increase or decrease.





# LEVEL ONE: MODELING

- People are influenced by what they see. Children do what they see.
- The better they get to know you, the greater your credibility will be and the higher influencer.
- Set the right example.

# LEVEL TWO: MOTIVATING

- Motivation makes things happen.
- When people feel good about you and themselves during times together, then your level of influence increases significantly
- When it comes to getting results, it takes motivation and ability.

# LEVEL THREE: MENTORING

- Mentoring is the intentional process of helping another develop and grow.
- “Mentoring is a positive dynamic that enables people to develop their God-given potential. It is a relational experience by which one person empowers another by transferring God-give resources.” Robert Clinton

# LEVEL FOUR: MULTIPLYING

- This occurs when you decide to unselfishly share your influence by helping others to pass it on.
- 2 Timothy 2:2
- Help others to use their influence wisely

