

The Four Primary Means of Influence

1. Genetics
2. Proximity
3. Teaching
4. Example



Popular, Bad Ideas about Christian Influence

1. The church can best influence unbelievers by *contextualization*.
2. The church can best influence the culture through *political action*.
3. The *main goal* of the believer's influence is to make the planet, our country, and our communities better.
4. We shouldn't care about our influence on the world but just focus on our personal devotion to Jesus.

The Salt of the Earth

Matthew 5:13

- I. The Picture Jesus Uses (13a)
 - A. A Seasoning for Food (Job 6:6)
 - B. A Cleanser or Antiseptic (Ezek. 16:4)
 - C. A Preservative
- II. The Point Jesus Makes (13a)
- III. The Peril Jesus Exposes (13b-c)
 - A. The sin in our lives reduces our preserving influence.
 - B. The lack of preserving influence proves we're not Jesus' followers.

How to Be Salt in Your World

1. Be in the world (Jn. 17:15-16, 18, 21b).
2. Be who you are in Jesus Christ (Jn. 17:17).
3. Live out the Beatitudes (Mt. 5:3-9).
4. Live a life of righteousness in obedience to Christ.
5. Don't lose your distinctive character (Mt. 5:13b).
6. Be faithful to speak the truth of God's Word & the gospel (Col. 4:6).