



I. REVIEW/INTRO

A. Under the influence

- Every generation is shaped by something
- Shaping starts in the home – it's the first place of influence
- What is normal in your home becomes normal in their life
- The church reinforces what God starts at home
- Water, plant, increase
- God will use many people in the process of formation

B. Going with the flow?

- Culture is not neutral-there is a current
- Illustration: Lazy river with the waterfall at the end

Ephesians 2:1-5 (NKJV) ... You He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the [a]course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

C. Influence

Influence is the power to shape the way someone thinks, feels, behaves, believes, or responds—often over time and sometimes without them even realizing it.

The people around you shape you, their values, habits, attitudes.

Powerful part of influence: spend enough time around faith, courage, worship, generosity, wisdom, and conviction...and eventually those things begin shaping you too!!!

That is INFLUENCE.

D. Own it

Eventually this stops being about other's influence: parents; pastor; church; culture
It eventually becomes, what will you do?

We can't always help the things that shaped us – but what shaped up is not meant to DEFINE US



Joshua 24:14-15

ASK YOURSELF:

- What current will I move with?
- What voices will I listen to?
- What values will shape my life
- What kind of influence will flow through me?
- All matter because they shape us, engrave on us.

E. Everyone is influencing someone - The question is: What kind of influence is flowing out of me and who will it touch?

II. WHAT WILL YOU DO?

A. Will you be conformed or transformed?

Romans 12:2 (NKJV) And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

The Greek word for “conformed” carries the idea of: being pressed into a mold, shaped externally, patterned after something

B. Your life creates a current

Ephesians 4:11-13 (Message) He handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher to train Christ’s followers in skilled servant work, working within Christ’s body, the church, until we’re all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God’s Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ.

Spiritual growth doesn’t happen by accident:

- You won’t get the promise without the process
- We want fruit but we don’t want roots
- What current are you moving with?

C. What will you do?

John 15:8 (NLT) When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

John 15:16 (NLT) You didn’t choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.