

# Our Responsibility for Our Influence

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 8:9-12  
Romans 14:7  
Deuteronomy 13:6-11

## Introduction

Seldom do we realize how great is our power of influence, nor do we often comprehend how many people are secretly watching our lives to see how they compare to the standard for a Christian.

Yet the scripture clearly teaches us that God will judge the Christian for the way he has used his influence, and for the effect the Christian's influence has had on the lives of those observing him.

## I. The power of influence

**2 Samuel 16:23** Now in those days the advice Ahithophel gave was like that of one who inquires of God. That was how both David and Absalom regarded Ahithophel's advice.

- A. Your influence can alter the course of another's life
  - 1. In this life
  - 2. In eternity
- B. Your influence can change another person's behavioral patterns toward God
  - 1. His patterns of worship -- Michal's criticism of David
  - 2. His patterns of giving
  - 3. His patterns of service
- C. Your influence can change another person's spiritual priorities

## II. The peril of influence

**1 Corinthians 8:12** When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.

- A. Inaccurately gauging the extent of our influence
  - 1. Some will read the Word in your life rather than read the Word

- 2. Some watch you so closely, they cannot see Jesus
- B. Careless misuse of personal liberties
- C. Inconsistencies between our testimony and conduct

## III. The responsibility of influence

Romans 14:12 So then everyone of us shall give account of himself to God.

- A. Our responsibility is to use our influence responsibly
  - 1. To be used only to effect change in other's lives that cause them to draw closer to God
  - 2. Never to be used to another's spiritual detriment
- B. We are accountable to God for the usage of influence