

## A WOMEN'S INFLUENCE

*For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. (Romans 14:7)*

Influence: an effect of a person on another; impact, carry weight

The influence of our daily lives is one of the things that we think about the least. And yet it is probably the area of greatest impact upon others, the area that never stops working. From the beginning woman has had influence with man (or those she is around).

### I. Power or influence of women on men

#### A. Complete intimacy with God in the garden of Eden

1. V. 25....naked and felt no shame
2. No knowledge of good and evil

#### B. Eve

1. Lead into deception - influenced her husband

*And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner. (1 Timothy 2:14)*

2. Adam was not deceived, but because of Eve and his love for her he went along
3. Brought to the knowledge of good and evil

*He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." (Genesis 3:10)*

4. Intimacy broken

### II. Gift of influence

A. Easily deceived, yet have great insight, strong, need to keep relationship with God sure and strong.

B. The godly woman's influence flows from intimate relationship with God. As we recognize our influence as a gift from God, we yield it to Him for His perfect use.

C. Because it is a powerful thing, we need to use it carefully and properly.

1. Men ruled by head. They think things out.
2. Women ruled by heart. They feel things.

III. Esther (Vashti, Zeresh)

A. Elders recognized the influence Vashti had over the women

*For the queen's conduct will become known to all the women, and so they will despise their husbands and say, 'King Xerxes commanded Queen Vashti to be brought before him, but she would not come.' (Esther 1:17)*

B. Esther

1. Godly influence in her life.
2. Did not use outward means to influence the king to choose her. (Read Esther 2:12-17)
3. Depended on God

*"Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish." (Esther 4:16)*

4. Her influence brought salvation to her people, got rid of evil, promoted righteousness
5. Zeresh (Haman's wife)
  - a. Personal ambition for herself and her husband ruled her influence
  - b. Encouraged him to do evil, seek revenge

IV. As you consider your life what things/people have influenced you -- for good, for bad?

- A. A godly home and parents
- B. An abusive situation
- C. Wrong values

V. What do you want to carry forward to those you influence -- the good, the bad?

VI. You can change the pattern of influence.

- A. A relationship with God
- B. Growing in His Grace and influence in your life
  1. Meek/gentle and quiet spirit

*Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. (1 Peter 3:4)*

2. The secret of a meek/gentle and quiet spirit is:
  - a. to put our hope in
  - b. to entrust ourselves to; to stand strong in the Lord.
  - c. the inner self strengthened and at rest in Him.

- C. Using wisdom in the things you do and say

*She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. (Proverbs 31:26)*

*29 "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." 30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. (Proverbs 31:29-30)*