



Healthy influence for a church planter: Leader Vs. Manipulator

1. God gives influence - through nature and nurture.
2. You will either use that influence to glorify God or yourself.

2 Samuel 23 - The last words of David

When one rules justly over men,
ruling in the fear of God,

**he dawns on them like the morning light,
like the sun shining forth on a cloudless morning,
like rain that makes grass to sprout from the earth...**

...But worthless men are all like thorns that are thrown away,
for they cannot be taken with the hand; but the man who touches them
arms himself with iron and the shaft of a spear,
and they are utterly consumed with fire.”

13 Principles for spiritual formation of a Godly leader:

1. Leaders give illumination and life.

Manipulators (worthless men) cause conflict and make you want to fight them.

2. You CAN and SHOULD measure influence.

Leader of Self

Leader of Others

Leader of Leaders

Leader of An Organization

Leader of A Movement

3. Leaders exert influence with their weakness intentionally in full view. Manipulators seek to minimize and even hide their weakness.

4. The best leaders are the best followers. The worst manipulators are not under anyone's authority.

5. People are safer because of a leader's influence. People are in danger because of a manipulator's influence.

6. Leaders look ahead. Manipulators only look around.

7. Leaders establish boundaries between their problems and the problems of others. Manipulators blur them.

8. Leaders are committed to substance. Manipulators are consumed with Image Management.

9. Manipulators are hoarders of what is most valuable - Scarcity Mentality. Leaders are devoted to multiplying that which is valuable. Abundance Mentality.



10. Manipulators can't define culture apart from themselves or in a way that doesn't just look like themselves. Leaders

11. Manipulators get tired of saying what's right. Leaders know all the ways that their people need to be reminded of what is right.

12. Leaders use words to reveal. Manipulators use language to conceal.

13. Leaders multiply other leaders. Manipulators hinder other leaders.

The gospel protects us from the manipulator!

Ephesians 6:16 - In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;

There is nothing that the enemy can offer you that you do not already freely have in Christ!

While influence is a God-given gift, what we do with it (how we steward it) will determine whether you or God get the glory.